■ **ENTERTAINMENT / A4-1**

Antonio Banderas all praises for Fil-Am co-star in 'Take the Lead'

■ **LIFESTYLE / F2**

Reminiscing with Sergio Mendes music

■ **SPORTS / A29**

RP to host world pool championship

■ **NEWS / A2**

GMA woos military wives with Botica ng Bayan franchises, loans

1st in RP: Mom watches son on Web deliver valedictory

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
Contributor

THE SELF-CONFESSED "ABSENTEE MOM" WAS overjoyed to learn that her only son had been chosen to deliver the valedictory speech in behalf of the graduating class of the Ateneo Grade School in Quezon City.

But joy quickly turned to sadness for Socorro Victoria Aydinan, a government employee on a

1ST IN RP/ A6

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, April 2, 2006 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 115 P18 website: www.inq7.net

US hospitals groaning under patients' weight

ST. LOUIS—GOING TO the hospital is rarely fun. If you weigh over 300 pounds like Beth Henk, it can be embarrassing.

"I've flipped an exam table—I sat on the end of it and it just flipped up," said Henk, whose weight

US HOSPITALS/ A21

DIET MUNA KAILANGAN WALANG DAMO!

Meralco monopoly over

Palace accepts Lopezes' offer to open competition to other power producers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Abigail L. Ho

IT'S NOW OPEN SEASON IN THE POWER SECTOR.

Under pressure to lower electricity rates, the Manila Electric Co. has finally agreed to allow other power producers to supply the electricity requirements of its large industrial and commercial customers who consume at least 1 megawatt (MW) a month.

Meralco's "unconditional offer," contained in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, was immediately accepted by the government which only a few months ago had threatened to take over the country's largest power utility. for non-payment of P42 billion owed to the National Power Corp. (Napocor).

Meralco currently has 494 large industrial and commercial customers each with a demand volume of 1 MW and above. These large clients accounted for about 25 percent of Meralco's total electricity sales last year.

Meralco, however, will continue to serve those customers who do not choose an alternative power supplier.

"Meralco fully supports the government's desire to move forward on deregulation which would enable customers to avail of cheaper electricity rates, facilitate the privatization of Napocor, and address the looming capacity problem," Meralco chair and chief executive officer Manuel Lopez said in his letter to the President last March 20.

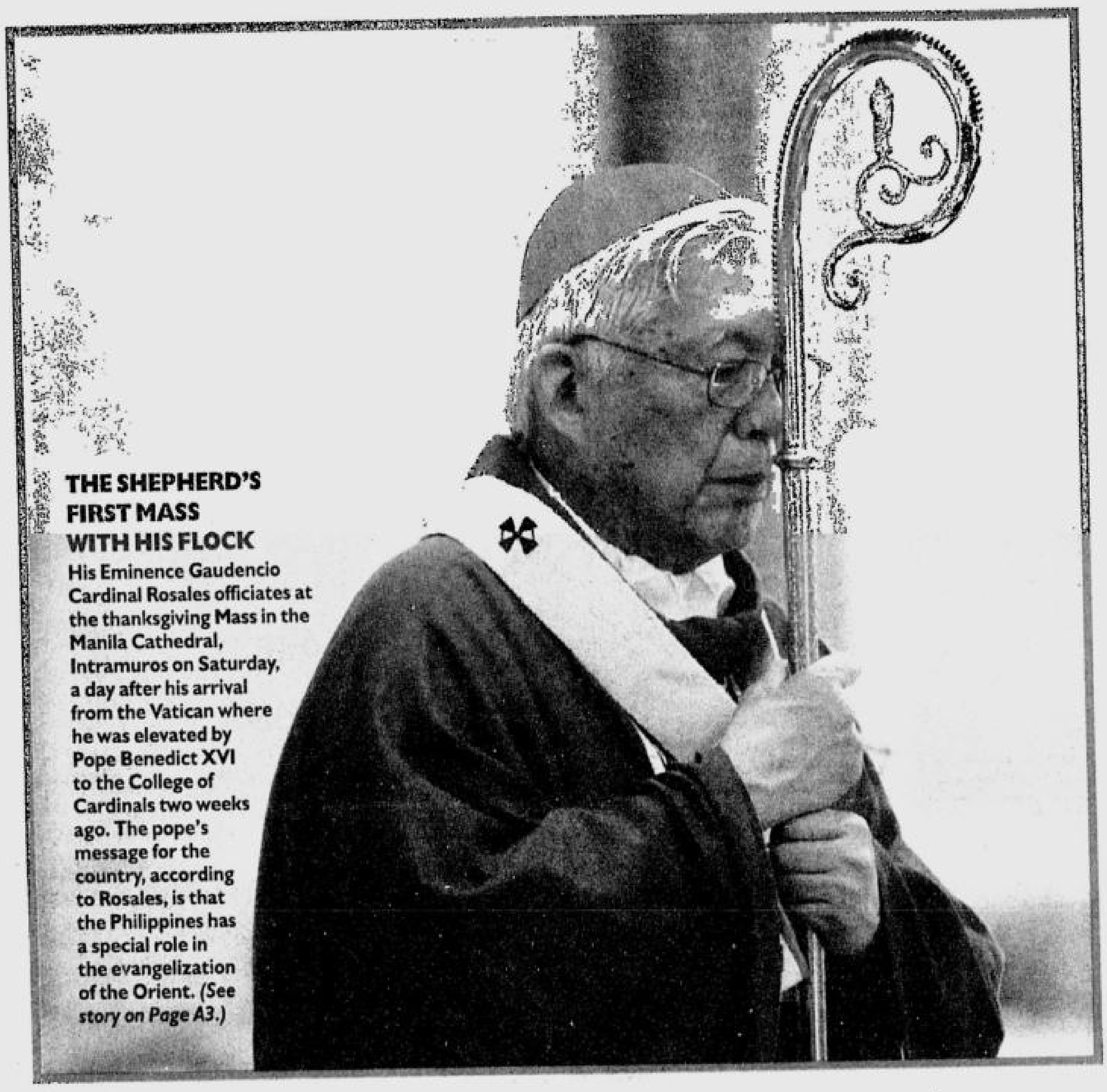
Albay Rep. and Ms Arroyo's economic adviser Joey Salceda, who brokered the deal, described Meralco's "goodwill gesture" as the "breakup of the last major oligopoly in the Philippine domestic market."

"Meralco has been studying how it can concretize its support and believes it may have a solution in the light of the new strategic directions for Meralco called for by the Epira (Electric Power Industry Reform Act). At this time, Meralco believes that it should concentrate on its distribution business and on supplying its captive market which are its franchise obligations under Epira," Lopez said.

Lopez told the President that Meralco's offer would result in lower rates to large industrial and commercial customers and encourage them to stay and attract new investors to the country.

Foreign investors have been complaining of the high cost of doing business in

MERALCO/ A6



THE SHEPHERD'S FIRST MASS WITH HIS FLOCK
His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales officiates at the thanksgiving Mass in the Manila Cathedral, Intramuros on Saturday, a day after his arrival from the Vatican where he was elevated by Pope Benedict XVI to the College of Cardinals two weeks ago. The pope's message for the country, according to Rosales, is that the Philippines has a special role in the evangelization of the Orient. *(See story on Page A3.)*

World looks back on Pope John Paul the Great

VATICAN CITY—FOR A WHILE, THE world didn't seem the same without him. The most photographed man in history had disappeared, and the Roman Catholic Church he led with such fervor for nearly 27 years was left with a giant void to fill.

A year after the death of John Paul II, Catholics are learning to love his successor Pope Benedict XVI, who began putting his own stamp on the Church when he elevated 15 cardinals at his first consistory two weeks ago.

But John Paul II's reputation as the dominant moral voice of the age, as an advocate of human dignity, as a victor over communism and as an architect of Christian reconciliation with Jews, is undimmed.

"John Paul II does not yet know the desert which few great men escape after their death. Perhaps he will be spared that," reflected Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, one of the late pope's closest collaborators.

"That pope was the spokesman for the conscience of humanity," the cardinal said. "One can well understand how non-Christians were impressed by him."

When he died on April 2, 2005, the impact was felt worldwide. Political leaders who had beaten a path to his door as a spiritual sounding board, would soon jostle for elbow room at the biggest funeral in history.

WORLD/ A21

Benedictine monks live on edge of seat of power, witness history

By Christian V. Esguerra

APART FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, there's another group that has, through the years, grown accustomed to the chaos of political rallies at Mendiola Bridge.

Unlike their neighbors who are almost always dressed in full battle or riot gear, the handful of Benedictine monks cloistered in the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat would never resort to violence to maintain the peace.

They prefer to stay behind the walls of the 105-year-old monastery in deep prayer and work — *ora et labora*. It's a way of life inspired by St. Benedict, the Italian monk born in 480 A.D., whose teachings and ascetic ways became popular in the 6th century and helped steer post-Roman Europe away from barbarism.

Benedictine monks follow three vows, namely: obedience, conversion of life [to chastity and poverty] and stability.

In 1901, the abbey and San Beda College were established on Mendiola Street. In 1926, the Church of the Benedictine monks was completed. Since then, the Benedictines have been unlikely neighbors to politicians and power-brokers who come in and out of Malacañang.

They arrived long before Mendiola Bridge—now called Chino Roces Bridge—earned its historical significance as the avenue of democratic expression. It was a badge defined by endless rallies pitting citizens against the government.

Through all these, the monks have maintained their contemplative ways, surviving the sound and, sometimes, the fury of gunfire during military coups in the 1980s or the siege of Malacañang in 2001.

"We're conditioned to [take] these external forces," Fr. Anscar Chupungco, the school rector, explained in an interview with the INQUIRER last Thursday. "We've learned that everything passes, that there are more things that happen than those that happen every day."

Some 35 monks, including postulants and aspirants (those wanting to join the order), currently live in a one-hectare property beside the San Beda campus.

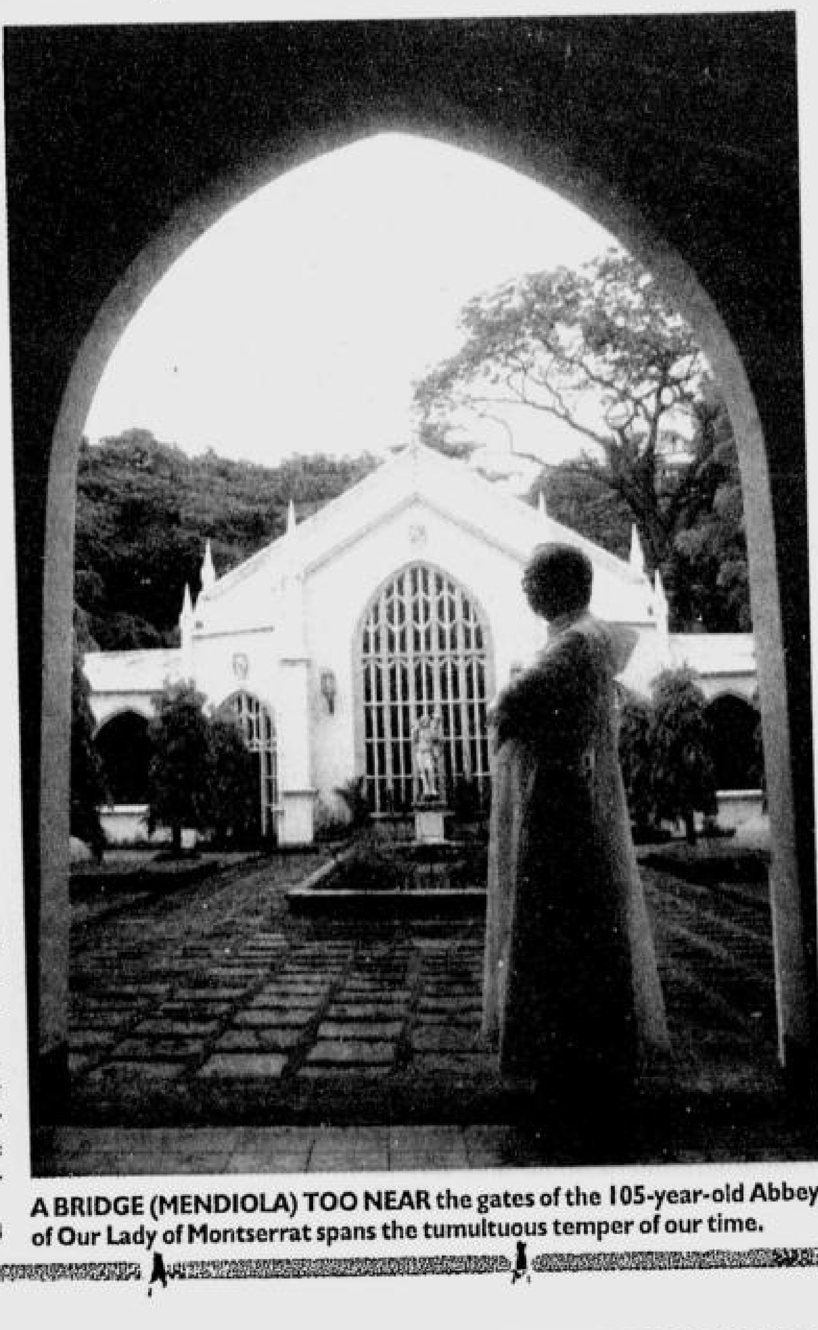
Located near Malacañang, it's secluded from the "outside world," the way monasteries are supposed to be, by the neo-Gothic walls of the abbey. It's an entirely different world, though not unlike monasteries in medieval Europe.

The serene atmosphere allows monks, like their abbot, Fr. Tarcisio Ma. H. Narciso, to follow the Benedictine way of life—one that is characterized by "daily attentiveness to God."

Benedictines follow the Divine Office or a set of prayers said during specific times of the day. It begins with lauds in the morning, ending with vespers (evening prayer) and compline (night prayer).

A beautiful part of the prayers is the alternate singing of the Psalms in the Chapter room facing the courtyard at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat. Chapter refers to the gathering of members of the religious community.

BENEDICTINE/ A4



REM ZAMORA

A BRIDGE (MENDIOLA) TOO NEAR the gates of the 105-year-old Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat spans the tumultuous temper of our time.

Mayors told: Do an Atienza, dance to tune of the Cha-cha

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG IS ENCOURAGING other mayors nationwide to follow Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's lead.

"The sooner our local officials have the signatures for Charter change verified by the Commission on Elections, the sooner we can move to the next step, which is a plebiscite," said Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff.

Atienza, the first mayor to officially hop on what Ms Arroyo called the Charter change "train," presented to the Comelec on Friday 155,123 signatures that he said were gathered from Manila's six districts.

The signatures, representing approval of the proposed shift from the presidential to the parliamentary system of government, are to form part of the planned people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution.

But Defensor said Malacañang was leaving to the city and town mayors the decision on what to do with the signatures supposedly gathered by the multisectoral coalition Sigaw ng Bayan in their respective districts.

Malacañang continued its push for Charter change via a people's initiative, which it described as "an irresistible force."

Said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a radio interview: "The Constitution vested constituent powers on the people to propose amendments to our basic law. This was designed so that elitist politicians like those who oppose constitutional reforms won't have a monopoly of what is good for the country.

"The people are seeking genuine change in our political system, and this cannot be held hostage by politicians who act out of fear of losing their hold on power."

MAYORS/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Eastern Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy, with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/04/02/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Now, GMA woos military wives

By Gil. C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER WOOING THE SOLDIERS WITH HIGHER pay, better equipment and housing, President Macapagal-Arroyo is now going after their wives with offers of loans to start small-scale businesses to augment their income.

"What you need is passion, hard work and persistence to be successful in business," said the President in her advice to military wives during her visit yesterday to the Micronegosyo Fair held at the Philippine Army Gym.

The President noted that her presence at the fair along with Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and the military top brass led by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and Army chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon was proof of the importance the government attached to the financial needs of the soldiers and their families.

The President encouraged the military wives to avail themselves of soft government loans for small-scale businesses as long as they were sure that their businesses would yield more than the cost of their loans.

The President also offered the military wives a chance to run "Tindahan Natin" and "Botika ng Bayan" outlets nationwide. These stores, official outlets for subsidized commodities such as rice and noodles and low-priced drugs, provide their owners with sizable margins, according to Cabinet officials.

Cruz said the government would announce a major agriculture project that would utilize idle military land with the produce to be marketed by the government.

Esperon welcomed the President's move to face the military wives because it showed her sincerity in helping the soldiers meet their families' needs while they risked their lives for the country.

The two-day business franchising fair was organized by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship led by businessman Jose Concepcion III, presidential consultant for entrepreneurship.

Aside from franchise opportunities, the group provides the military wives with face-to-face mentoring sessions for free and forums on microfinancing.

This special fair for the military wives comes on the heels of the President's recent announcement of major housing projects.

Meanwhile, Malacañang appears to have indefinitely put on hold the oft-delayed dialogue with soldiers which was meant to address the growing restiveness in the military.

Instead, the Palace has endorsed a proposal to limit the authority of the Commission on Appointments in the confirmation of military officers as a way of to depoliticizing the military.

Cruz said Malacañang has decided to undertake a more "scientific" approach by holding a survey before the President sits down in face-to-face dialogue with soldiers.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the Palace would implement a more discreet system in which soldiers would be asked to place their complaints in a sealed envelope which would then be addressed by an internal committee. "It's like soldiers would go to a confessional and say all their gripes," said Defensor.

Only after these measures were made would the Palace consider holding the presidential dialogue, said Defensor.

Defensor had been previously tapped to head the face-to-face dialogue with the soldiers, which was supposed to have taken place as early as two weeks ago.

Malacañang announced the planned dialogue a day after the President lifted the state of national emergency which she imposed last Feb. 24 to foil an alleged coup attempt.

The dialogue, however, has been delayed by differences on what topics should be discussed and who would be allowed attend the sessions with the President.

Sigaw ng Bayan

CHA-CHA HITS THE ROAD. Members of Sigaw ng Bayan make their way in a motorcade through the narrow streets of Sta. Ana, Manila, during a demonstration yesterday in support of amending the Philippine Constitution by a people's initiative. REM ZAMORA

Senga still mum on report on generals

WHILE THE PUBLIC HAS YET TO get a glimpse of the military fact-finding report that was supposed to look into the alleged involvement of certain generals in the "Hello Garci" poll fraud scandal, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga has as good as branded the report as "no big deal."

Senga said the report turned in by a five-man board led by Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga looked into the military's performance of its duties during the May 2004 national elections after being deputized by the Commission on Elections.

Senga approved the so-called Mayuga report before it was forwarded to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. last month, but chose to keep mum when pressed about specific allegations against generals mentioned in damaging bugged conversations during the canvassing in the presidential elections.

Senga continued to duck questions about the reasons for keeping the Mayuga board's findings under wraps in the face of restiveness among the troops over allegations that the military was involved in a conspiracy to rig the elections in President Macapagal-Arroyo's favor.

Sidestepping the question of whether the Mayuga report would help bring back the public's trust in the military leadership, Senga said the investigation was merely fact-finding.

"What Vice Admiral Mayuga undertook is a fact-finding report to determine the actions that the Armed Forces of the Philippines undertook during the elections. In other words, [the report was about] how the AFP performed having been deputized by the Comelec," Senga said last week in a rare appearance at a news forum.

"It's about the conduct of elections," he stressed without providing details about the report.

The "Hello Garci" tapes of wiretaps recorded a man believed to be former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano as telling a woman believed to be the President that he was coordinating with a General Esperon and a General Kyamko to contain a General Gudani whom the man suspected of being sympathetic to the opposition.

"Garcillano" also blamed a General Habacon for not properly reconciling the records of election results in Basilan.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon was deputy commander of the AFP's task force for honest, orderly and peaceful elections [HOPE] while retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko was the AFP Southern Command chief during the elections.

Retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, who was head of Task Force Ranao at the time, underwent a court-martial in September after he testified about election irregularities in Lanao del Sur.

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In 1st Mass, Rosales thanks his 2 fathers

By Jerome Aning

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO CARDINAL Rosales yesterday thanked two "fathers" during the first Mass he celebrated in the country as a new "Prince of the Church."

In a speech he gave at the end of the Mass, Rosales expressed gratitude to his biological father, Godofredo, for allowing him to follow his priestly vocation—albeit after much persuasion—in 1947.

Rosales also thanked his spiritual father, Pope Benedict XVI, for reiterating the Philippines' "special role" in the evangelization of Asia.

As cardinal, the archbishop said he could now "listen and take part in the discussion on the Church's needs and issues worldwide, and offer advice."

Standing room only

Rosales was greeted with applause when he entered the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros, Manila, at 10 a.m. and donned his purple liturgical vestments in one of the side chapels. It was also the first time for his countrymen to see him wearing the distinctive red cap of a cardinal.

VIPs, clergymen, Catholic school students, members of lay groups and residents of the archdiocese filled the cathedral's 2,500 seats. Hundreds of others heard Mass standing outside the cathedral.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and about 50 bishops, including those coming from the Manila Metropolitan See's suffragan dioceses: Imus, Antipolo, Malolos, Novaliches, Cubao, Caloocan, Pasig and Parañaque, concelebrated the Mass.

Vidal, who delivered the homily, underscored the role of a cardinal as a representative not only of his diocese but of his country within the Roman Catholic Church.

Dying seed

Vidal also lectured against selfishness, discussing the metaphor used by Jesus Christ on the rewards of self-negation: "Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest," he said, quoting John 12:24 from the Bible.

"Dying like the seed means letting go of our personal interests—yes, even the valid and legitimate aspirations—so that something greater might emerge from our act of self-sacrifice," Vidal said. "It means letting go of what we want for ourselves, so that the broken pieces of our dreams may form the scaffolds of a grander vision."

The Cardinal's listeners included President Macapagal-Arroyo and her allies, as well as opposition politicians, both groups sitting in separate pews during the Mass.

Although Vidal did not make any direct allusions, he said the metaphor of the dying seed could be used "for our discernment as a nation."

Pope's message

Rosales was applauded after sharing the Pope's personal message to the country.

"[Pope Benedict] said 'the Philippines has a special role in the evangelization of the Orient.' He mentioned this twice in our four encounters during the consistory," said Rosales, who was at the Vatican last week.

The cardinal said Pope Benedict was the third Pope, after John Paul II and Paul VI, to remind the predominantly Roman Catholic Filipinos "of our calling and responsibility to give the noble cultures of Asia a witness of our faith, even from where we are now, with the quality of our social, economic, political and religious life."

Underneath the challenge to the Filipinos' Christian vocation, Rosales said, is "a call to unity in the manner of our witnessing, and a challenge to collaborative sacrificial effort to make our society true communities of believers, eliminating injustice and inequalities that deny anyone a dignified life."

"This is ... our mission. And Asia is looking to us for light which already we have received in Christ," he added.

The Mass was also attended by Vice President Noli de Castro, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, other lawmakers and Cabinet members.

Other prelates present included Apostolic Nunciature charge d'affaires Jain Mendez, Cotabato Archbishop and Federation of Asian Bishops Conference president Orlando Quevedo, Bishop Tomas Camacho of Saipan in the Northern Marianas and Manila Auxiliary Bishop Bernardino Cortez.

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Correction

IN THE MARCH 31 ISSUE, the list of bar topnotchers on page A21 misstated the school from which 1968 first-placer Oscar Glovasa graduated. Glovasa is a graduate of the then Divine Word College—not UB (University of Bohol).

* * *

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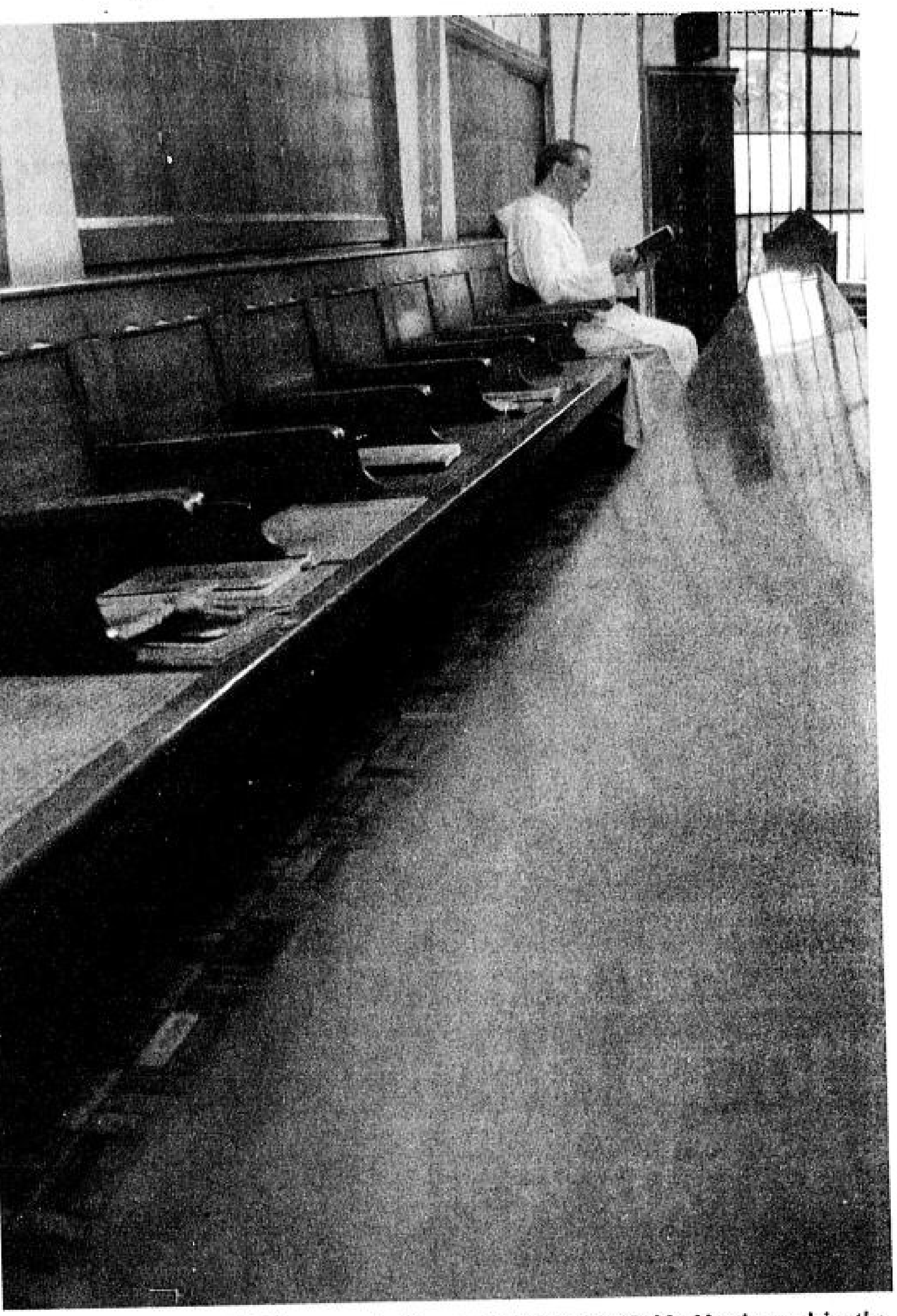

THEY ARE IN THE WORLD but are not of the world, Abbot Tarcisio Ma. Narciso explains the Benedictine way of work and prayer. REM ZAMORA

Benedictine monks live on edge of seat of power, witness history

From page A1

The routine is part of the Holy Rule of St. Benedict, a very strict disciplinarian during his time. It essentially calls on followers to live a balanced, disciplined life devoted to the sanctification of man and the glorification of God through prayer and work.

"To some, it may seem boring because you do the same things [every day]," says Narciso, while giving the INQUIRER a tour of the monastery. "But you get to establish roots, a pattern and things become orderly."

Make no mistake about the Benedictines. Living behind the abbey's walls doesn't mean they are detached from the world, particularly from the politics that color Mendiola Bridge.

The Benedictines were there when tens of thousands of Filipinos marched on Edsa to oust the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, according to Chupungco.

Fr. Bernardo Perez, his predecessor, once found himself standing in the middle of Mendiola, pacifying anti-Marcos protesters.

Breakaway group?

There was also a time during one of many coups against the Aquino administration when a rocket-propelled grenade grazed the wall of the monastery, narrowly missing the monks' rooms. They've often been reminded to take extra care since.

Narciso remembers a funny story about how the monks, isolated as they were in the monastery, almost ran into supporters of the late dictator. This was in the last days of the Marcos dictatorship when soldiers with white headbands were marching in front of San Beda on their way to Malacañang.

From the windows of the abbey, the monks displayed yellow banners to welcome the troops and what they thought was the restoration of democracy.

"All the while, we thought they belonged to the breakaway group because of the headbands," the abbot recalls. "To our surprise, they were Marcos loyalists. So we pulled out the banners as quickly as we could."

Hours later, Narciso and the other monks would practically save the lives of this same group of Marcos soldiers.

Peacemaker

An officer knocked on the campus gates, asking if they could be allowed inside. An angry mob was nearing Mendiola and God knows what could happen if they clashed with a small but heavily armed band of soldiers, the monks realized.

The monks led the soldiers inside and brought them to the covered basketball court.

"True enough, people came looking for them and the security guard just denied their presence," Narciso says. "Had they gotten to the soldiers, there would have been bloodshed."

The Benedictines again opened their doors on Labor Day in 2001 when loyalists of Joseph Estrada—many of whom were mothers carrying babies—attacked Malacañang.

The loyalists had been tear-gassed, their eyes stinging and their faces red and they had nowhere to go. They knocked on the abbey gates and the monks allowed them in and even served them sandwiches and juice.

No innocent request

It's during crises like today's raging political turmoil that monks need to pray more intensely and get "rooted" in the community, Narciso says.

The abbot, however, laments a recent incident wherein they inadvertently allowed themselves to be used for a political end.

Narciso was lecturing before a class of novices when he got a call from the security guard downstairs. A member of the Black and White Movement, a group demanding the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was asking if he could be allowed to pray at the Abbey church.

Narciso acceded only to find out that it was no innocent request. A pack of reporters and cameramen, all escorted by armed policemen, poured into the church to cover and take pictures of one or two protesters praying.

The incident would later be announced as a triumph for the anti-Arroyo movement. It was the first time that rallyists got past the foot of Mendiola Bridge after the President, accused of cheating in the 2004 elections, had declared the area a "no-rally zone."

Moral values

"If you want to pray, pray in silence," Narciso says. "Why have your picture taken? What's the point? If you're going to use the church for political purposes, why not just go elsewhere?"

He says it's not an issue of siding with or going against the embattled President. Benedictines, too, know what's happening around them and each monk has his own opinion. In fact, the "Hello Garci" controversy crops up during informal conversations in the cloister, Narciso says.

He says the monks prefer to follow the guidance of the Catholic bishops which is centered on nurturing moral values in public life.

Involved and focused

Involving oneself in political issues is just a speck in the application of the Benedictine vow of "stability." Narciso says it broadly refers to a monk's rootedness in a specific community.

"We are in the world but not of the world," he explains. "Your values must be of Christ but you don't segregate yourself from the world. You learn to live with the people."

In the case of the Benedictines in the country, their main application of *labora* is in education. They run three schools, one on Mendiola Street and one each in Taytay and Alabang.

"We are involved in the world in a more focused way," says Chupungco.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2161 Series of 2006

MOTHER AND SON REUNITED, thanks to the fare the former saved. Socorro Victoria Aydinan in Melbourne watched son Macliing's grade school graduation on the Ateneo webcast and sent him the money to join her Down Under as a fitting gift for the class valedictorian. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

1st in RP: Mom watches son on Web . . .

From page A1

graduate scholarship at the Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia, for one-and-a-half years now.

After making quick computations, she realized that the cost of the trip would be too steep. And if she did decide to attend her son's graduation rites, anyway, she would have to return immediately to the university, where she is in the thick of mid-semester class work.

Fortunately, during a practice session a week before graduation day, Socorro's son, Macliing Gabriel, was informed by his teachers that the Ateneo graduation ceremonies would have a live webcast.

It was to be a first in any Philippine university, and the grade school graduation on March 23 would be the pilot event.

Thrilled, the boy immediately phoned his mother to inform her.

'That's my son!'

On the appointed day in Melbourne, Socorro could not contain her excitement and made sure that all her friends viewed the live webcast with her.

"I went, 'That's my son! That's my son!' I was literally jumping with joy. I was on the verge of tears even, but was too proud to cry," she said in an e-mail interview.

Socorro said she recorded Macliing delivering his graduation speech in Filipino on her videocam. She said the boy would have missed the seventh grade and delivering that speech had he agreed to come with her to Australia last year.

"It was a very overwhelming emotional experience," she said. "I couldn't sleep that night. I kept replaying [the webcast] over and over. I was the proudest mom on earth. This is one of the best projects the Ateneo has embarked on."

4 days

The webcast was conducted by the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism of the Ateneo de Manila, the Campus Network Group, and Mosaic Communications or Mozcom.

It covered four days of graduation ceremonies, each lasting an average of three hours, in the grade school, high school and graduate and undergraduate levels of the Loyola Schools.

Webcasting is a broadcast or recording of an event over the World Wide Web. In July 2004, Mozcom also provided the live webcast of PBA's Game 4 of the Fiesta Conference Finals between the crowd-favorite Barangay Ginebra Kings and the Red Bull Barakos.

The technology can also be used in distance education.

According to the organizers, the graduation webcast received feedback from the Philippines (about 80 percent), the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, China, Singapore, Guam, the Northern Marianas, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, France and the United Arab Emirates.

It averaged 330 unique hits (individual computers that accessed the webcast).

Bringing people together

"This means that the quality of the service was good. It also means that we were able to bring people together," said Dr. Mercedes Rodrigo, director for e-learning at the Konrad Adenauer Center.

The Aydinan family would agree.

SC asked to hold Comelec in contempt

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME COURT SHOULD HAVE THE Commission on Elections explain why it should not be cited in contempt for "flagrantly disobeying" the tribunal's 1997 ruling that a people's initiative cannot be undertaken without an enabling law, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

"This is the most expeditious and clear-cut procedure to settle once and for all the legality of the administration's illegal move to revise the Constitution and overhaul our system of government before it gets out of hand," said the maverick administration senator.

Arroyo also said the tribunal should immediately stop the Comelec from verifying the signatures that were supposedly collected in support of the people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution.

He said Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and the commissioners should be ordered to explain their actions "so that respect for our institutions and processes, including that of the Supreme Court, is not undermined."

'Recidivist Comelec'

"We cannot have a recidivist Comelec that openly and habitually defies Supreme Court decisions," Arroyo said.

He said the high court had "clearly and peremptorily declared" in Santiago vs Comelec that the law (Republic Act No. 6735) being invoked to justify the current drive for a people's initiative was "inadequate to cover the system of initiative on amendments to the Constitution."

He also said the high court had specifically declared that "the Comelec should be permanently enjoined from entertaining or taking cognizance of any petition for initiative on amendments to the Constitution until a sufficient law shall have been validly enacted to provide for the implementation of the system."

"That is the ruling and, unless overturned, it is the law. You cannot defy the Supreme Court," Arroyo said.

"But it seems the executive [branch] is bent on defying settled decisions of the court. They're acting as if there is no Supreme Court," he said.

Inhibition of justices

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, also of the administration, said incumbent Supreme Court justices aspiring to become chief justice later this year should inhibit themselves from any case involving Charter change (Cha-cha).

Santiago said national bar associations should seek such an inhibition in order to preserve the integrity of the tribunal.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban is due for retirement in December.

"Out of *delicadeza,* any incumbent justice who wishes to be appointed to the vacancy should inhibit himself or herself from any case involving Cha-cha," Santiago said in a statement.

She said it would be unethical for a justice to vote in favor of Charter change because President Macapagal-Arroyo, the appointing power, had already endorsed the amendment of the 1987 Constitution through a people's initiative.

"If a justice votes in favor of Cha-cha and later gets appointed as chief justice, the public will suspect that the justice cast a vote, not out of conviction, but out of political accommodation," Santiago said.

"That would destroy the credibility of the Supreme Court," she said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. agreed with this view.

"The position [of chief justice] could become a bargaining chip. So out of *delicadeza,* they should inhibit themselves," he said.

No change in facts

Santiago, a recognized constitutional law expert, also said the tribunal had "no acceptable legal basis" for reversing its ruling in Santiago vs Comelec.

"In reversing a previous ruling, the Supreme Court is not bound by the number of justices voting for or against the issue in the prior case, but by the issue of whether the facts have changed," she said, adding:

"The facts have not changed."

Santiago was the petitioner in the case bearing her name, which she personally argued before the high court. Her fellow petitioners were Alexander Padilla, now health undersecretary, and Maribel Ongpin, a civic leader.

Although an administration senator, Santiago opposes any move to reverse the ruling in Santiago vs Comelec, which lawyers consider to be a landmark case.

"To reverse the Santiago ruling will be to court disaster in terms of public opinion," she said.

Meralco monopoly over

From page A1

the Philippines which has one of the highest electricity rates in Asia.

In a joint statement, Energy Secretary Raphael M. Lotilla and National Economic and Development Authority Secretary General Romulo Neri said the government was accepting Meralco's "unconditional offer."

"We anticipate that this offer and its acceptance will help enable the industrial sector to avail of the lower time-of-use (TOU) rates of the National Power Corp., help reduce the cost of doing business in the Meralco franchise area, promote investment and the creation of additional jobs, and help push privatization forward," Lotilla and Neri said.

Finalize in 2 weeks

Lotilla said the President had directed Napocor and the National Transmission Corp. to finalize the details and mechanics of the new arrangement with Meralco within two weeks.

The scheme would be implemented immediately after the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of its details and mechanics.

"We are looking forward to meeting with Napocor and Transco as directed. Among the topics to be discussed is the dispatch of our (independent power producers)," Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said.

The Lopez family which owns Meralco also controls a number of IPPs which would now have to compete with other power suppliers.

Lotilla said Meralco's partial open access scheme would have a positive impact not only on investors, but also on the government's efforts to privatize Napocor's generation assets.

He explained that the new arrangement would create a new market for potential buyers of Napocor plants that would be placed on the auction block.

'Big sacrifice'

"This is an excellent deal for Meralco consumers and export manufacturers," said Salceda. "This is a big sacrifice for Meralco which is swimming in red ink while nursing mortal wounds from a P31 billion refund while facing another P16 billion refund."

Salceda said that while facing competition, the deal would have a liberating effect on the Lopezes to move on. "Just like PLDT overcame telecom deregulation and moved from a P3 billion profit in 1995 to P31 billion in 2005."

Once implemented, Lotilla said Meralco's large commercial and industrial customers could take advantage of Napocor's TOU rates by shifting their loads to off-peak hours, or the times when rates are lower.

The TOU scheme provides Napocor customers with flexible hourly rates that are lowest during off-peak hours, or between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and highest during peak hours, or from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays and holidays are also considered off-peak times.

Rates are also lower during the wet season, or from July to December, as electricity demand usually falls during this time due to the colder weather. Hydroelectric plants are also able to produce more power during these months.

Savings for expansion

"Large industrial users may be able to save on their electricity rates, and these savings could be significant enough to make them more competitive. They could also channel their savings to expansion activities," Lotilla said.

Francisco said Meralco was not at all apprehensive that it would lose its growth-driving customers even if most of its sales growth came from one of the segments that would be affected by its partial open access scheme.

"Between Meralco's blended generation rate and Napocor's TOU rate, some may choose to stay, especially the commercial (customers)," he told the INQUIRER.

In 2005, Meralco's revenue from electricity sales rose 15.9 percent to P170.85 billion from P147.35 billion the previous year. One-fourth of this amount came from customers with a monthly demand of 1 MW and above.

Other consumers benefit

Lopez also told Ms Arroyo that with the "dispatch of Meralco's IPPs at MEQ (Minimum Energy Quantity) levels, the other Meralco customers with demands of less than 1 megawatt would also benefit from lower purchase costs.

A power plant's MEQ level is the level at which it becomes more efficient and cost-effective, thus resulting in lower generation charges.

But Meralco vice president and utility economics chief Ivanna de la Peña said Meralco would only be able to determine exactly how the new scheme would affect the dispatch of IPPs First Gas Power Corp., through the Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo plants, and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd. when the mechanism for the scheme had been established.

"We'll still have to work out the mechanics. But the dispatch of our IPPs will affect the rates to consumers. It has always been our position that dispatch should not be below (minimum energy quantities) to keep rates down," she said.

Separate concern

"At this point, we are giving more importance to lowering the rates to our industrial customers and, perhaps, to all our other customers, too, if our IPPs can reach MEQ," Francisco said.

Lotilla and Neri said the government would consider Meralco's separate concern on the dispatch of its IPPs. "In any event, any possible arrangement concerning dispatch will have to fall away upon the full commercial operations of the Philippine wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) which is expected to happen in the near future."

Mayors told: Do a Lito Atienza . . .

From page A1

Defensor said the opposition should elevate the debate to more substantial matters, such as the kind of government suitable to the country, rather than dwell on "old issues, such as allegations that the President cheated in the last elections."

The opposition had earlier dismissed Ms Arroyo's Charter change train as headed toward a cliff. Defensor retorted yesterday that at least the government had a train, while the opposition did not even have a bicycle.

Bunye concurred, saying that "the democratic will of the people is gathering irresistible force as the debates are increasing in pitch."

"The Filipino people are on track toward political reform, and there is no stopping [them] from achieving their aspirations. The Charter change pessimists will be swept away, just as those who strongly oppose economic reform are proven wrong," he said.

Bunye also said it was no coincidence that 9 out of 10 of the Philippines' rich neighbors had parliamentary systems with more efficient ways of legislation.

He said the Senate was to blame for the legislative gridlock that, he said, would be resolved with a unicameral system that would lead to the abolition of the upper chamber.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles of Davao City also weighed in on the issue.

"The doomsday prediction of senators, who likened Charter change to a runaway train headed for the cliff, is an indication of their envy and growing desperation to stall Charter change, with 5.6 million [people] so far having endorsed it through a people's initiative," Nograles said.

Doubling the figures

In a news release, lawyer Raul Lambino, spokesperson of Sigaw ng Bayan, said 20 out of 24 Mindanao governors as well as "an overwhelming number" of local officials, nongovernment organizations and people's organizations had decided to raise their respective targets in gathering signatures.

Lambino said the number of signatories had exceeded six million—past the minimum constitutional requirement of 5.12 million—but that leaders of sectoral and business groups and various local government units had joined forces to double the figure.

"Our target of 10 to 12 million signatures is attainable given the support of Mindanao's grass-roots leaders," he said. "While the 5.2-million mark has already been surpassed, the campaign will proceed at full steam because our people want constitutional reforms now."

Warning

But the convenor of a group of lawyers warned Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. against proceeding with the verification of signatures.

Neri Colmenares of the Counsels for the Defense of Liberties (Codal) said the ongoing people's initiative was illegal on the basis of the Supreme Court's 1997 ruling on the case Santiago vs Comelec.

"If the Comelec is going to waste public funds in the verification of signatures that will not be recognized in the end by the high court, that constitutes graft or malversation of funds," Colmenares said.

He said graft charges could be filed on top of the contempt charges that some groups were threatening to lodge against Comelec registrars who would insist on validating the signatures. (*See sidebar on this page.*)

No public funds

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told the INQUIRER that government officials and personnel using public funds to gather signatures were liable for graft charges.

He also said that while public servants should not campaign for or against Charter change, they could express their views on the matter.

"Public officials cannot take part in and cannot spend public funds for the gathering of signatures," said Gonzalez, who had earlier issued a memorandum now being used by the Department of Interior and Local Government to justify the involvement of government employees in the signature drive.

Those who campaign for or against Charter change using government funds can be "struck down by the Commission on Audit" even as they make themselves liable for violating the antigraft law, he said.

Gonzalez, however, stuck to the tenor of his memorandum, which justified the action of government employees exercising their "civic duty" by discussing Charter change.

"I have a memo saying that even public officials, or even a teacher, can participate in the campaign ... I can explain to the people why I am against it or why I am in favor of it," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

"For example, if you are a public official and you go to the town plaza to air your views, that is not prohibited ... What is illegal is if a government employee campaigns for the people to sign the way he wants ... You are already being partisan there," he said.

Those who do so are violating civil service rules on political neutrality, Gonzalez said.

But there is nothing wrong in barangay leaders taking up the issue in their "citizens' assembly," so long as they do not make people vote for or against it, he said.

Quite doable

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, chair of the House committee on appropriations and economic adviser to the President, said the current fiscal situation could handle the tab of more than P2 billion for the holding of a plebiscite.

"*Kayang-kaya* (It's doable)," he said of the matter of finding the logistics for the exercise that Speaker Jose de Venecia had projected would be held in June.

Salceda told the INQUIRER that government expenditures for the first two months of the year totaled P7.7 billion, ahead of the budget deficit target for the period.

"The plebiscite can be easily accommodated with the availability of funds," he said, adding that the funds could be taken from government savings and augmented with the executive department's contingency funds.

"A contingency fund comes from a legal circumstance, from a legal event, granting that there is no legal [challenge to] the people's initiative and Republic Act No. 6537 (the supposed enabling law)," Salceda said.

Contingency funds

Asked whether the House—which only recently passed the P1-trillion budget for 2006—needed to realign funds, Salceda said no.

"That's the reason why the executive [department] has its contingency funds," he said.

He pointed out that in 2004, the government easily raised some P3.6 billion for the national elections in that year. The budget at that time was reenacted from 2003, a non-election year.

"The realignment by the executive [department] of its contingency funds must be triggered by a report from the Comelec that there is a legal contingency [which, in this case, is the need to hold a plebiscite]. And the government has to [get] funds from available sources," Salceda said. ***With reports from Armand Nocum and Norman Bordadora***

Drilon cites media, slain journalists

By Philip C. Tubeza

SENATE PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DRILON HAS lauded the news media for refusing to be cowed by the government which is out to "mask the truth and silence its bearers," and paid tribute to at least 28 Filipino journalists killed in the last five years.

In a speech to the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) in Makati City on Friday, Drilon denounced attempts by the Arroyo administration to muzzle the press.

"I salute the local media, those journalists who have sacrificed their lives or who have been hurt but continue to serve the truth," Drilon said. The declaration of a state of national emergency through Presidential Proclamation 1017 last month and the "insidious moves" that followed were meant to cow the press, he added.

"The police raid on The Daily Tribune, for example, was intended not solely as an act of retribution against a critical newspaper but as a warning to all media establishments to behave according to the desires of the powers-that-be," Drilon said.

Drilon noted, however, that even before the proclamation of a state of national emergency, international press organizations like the International Federation of Journalists and Reporters sans Frontiers (Reporters Without Borders) had stated that Filipino mediamen were already "paying a high price for their outspokenness."

He recalled that 28 Filipino journalists had been killed "in pursuit of their profession" as recorded by the IFJ, the International Press Institute (IPI) and the Philippine Union of Journalists.

Drilon said six journalists were killed, seven were physically attacked and nine threatened in 2004 alone.

That same year, the IPI World Press Freedom Review emphasized that the "Philippines, one of the freest and most democratic countries in Asia, for the third year in a row is the Asian country with the highest number of journalists murdered in the line of duty," Drilon said.

He said IPI, which had warned that the situation was worsening, "has the impression that the Philippine authorities are unable to accept criticism in media."

Mayor wants station off air

COTABATO CITY – THE TOWN MAYOR OF Kabacan, North Cotabato has asked telecommunication authorities to take off the air a radio station perceived to be critical of her administration.

A program host of the station slammed the move of Mayor Luzviminda Tan as tantamount to silencing the press.

"Its being critical of my administration is not the issue," said Tan, referring to 101 FM radio, an affiliate of dzRH of the Manila Broadcasting Corp.

"The request for a suspension order has been relayed to the National Telecommunications Commission because of some complaints that the station has no permit to operate and is operating as a commercial station when in fact it's not," Tan said.

Boy Ancheta, the station's news and public affairs program host, said Tan's action was repressive.

He said the mayor's action was aimed at "silencing the media in Kabacan," and denied allegations the station was operating illegally.

"Our permit to operate as a satellite station of MBC in North Cotabato was issued by the NTC," Ancheta said.

"Putting us off-air for an indefinite period is a clear suppression of press freedom. It appears that the mayor doesn't want to hear the complaints of the people about her governance. That's why she wanted my program axed by suspending the station's operation."

Tan rejected Ancheta's claim, saying she respected free speech.

"Even if comments were adversarial to my administration, I welcome them in the name of freedom and democracy," she said.

Tan said her request for NTC intervention was based on complaints from residents.

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3 Filipinos killed in Bahrain named; 1 remains missing

By Nikko Dizon

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN Affairs has released the names of three Filipinos who were among those who drowned when a pleasure boat capsized off Bahrain, and President Macapagal-Arroyo directed the foreign office to help the victims' families in the repatriation of their bodies.

DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque identified the fatalities in a text message to reporters as Norman Belardo, Edwin Felipe Batacan and Quennie Aboboto Dunca. Their relatives in Bahrain and in the Philippines had been notified of their deaths, he added.

"The Philippine Embassy in Bahrain is now providing assistance to repatriate the remains of the fatalities in the Al-dana tourist boat mishap," Asuque said.

The DFA had said last Friday that three Filipinos had drowned and that two others, both crewmen of the boat, were missing. It clarified yesterday that Dunca was one of the two Filipino crew members earlier reported missing. The other one has not been identified.

"The search for the one other missing Filipino crew member continues," Asuque said.

Seven other Filipinos survived, including three who were treated in a Bahraini hospital for minor injuries, he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a press statement that the President had condoled with the families of the Filipino victims.

"She has instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs to keep a tight watch on ongoing rescue operations to ascertain the condition of Filipinos who may have been aboard the tourist boat before it sank. She has also asked the DFA to extend assistance to the families of the three victims, particularly in the repatriation of the bodies of the victims," said Bunye.

Asuque said that the exact number of Filipinos aboard the boat had yet to be established.

"As of now, we have 11 Filipinos in our record, seven of whom survived, three were killed and one remains missing. The identification of the nationals on board the boat is based on the manifest," Asuque said in a phone interview.

Wire reports said at least 57 people, including the three Filipinos, drowned after the boat capsized and sank.

American and Bahraini officials had said there was no indication the sinking was the result of an attack.

Officials in Bahrain said 137 people were on board the Al-dana – mostly foreigners, including Britons, Americans, Germans, Indians, South Africans and Egyptians – when it sank.

Authorities in Bahrain have detained and were questioning the boat's captain, an Indian national, who they said was unqualified. The traditional wooden dhow was said to have been overloaded with passengers attending a corporate party.

"The captain was only a sailor and not qualified to operate the ship. The prosecutor's office has detained him and his assistant," prosecutor Nawaf Hamza told reporters in Manama Friday.

Rescuers helped by the US Navy's 5th Fleet pulled 67 survivors from the water. More than 30 people were taken to hospital. Most have been discharged. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Reuters*

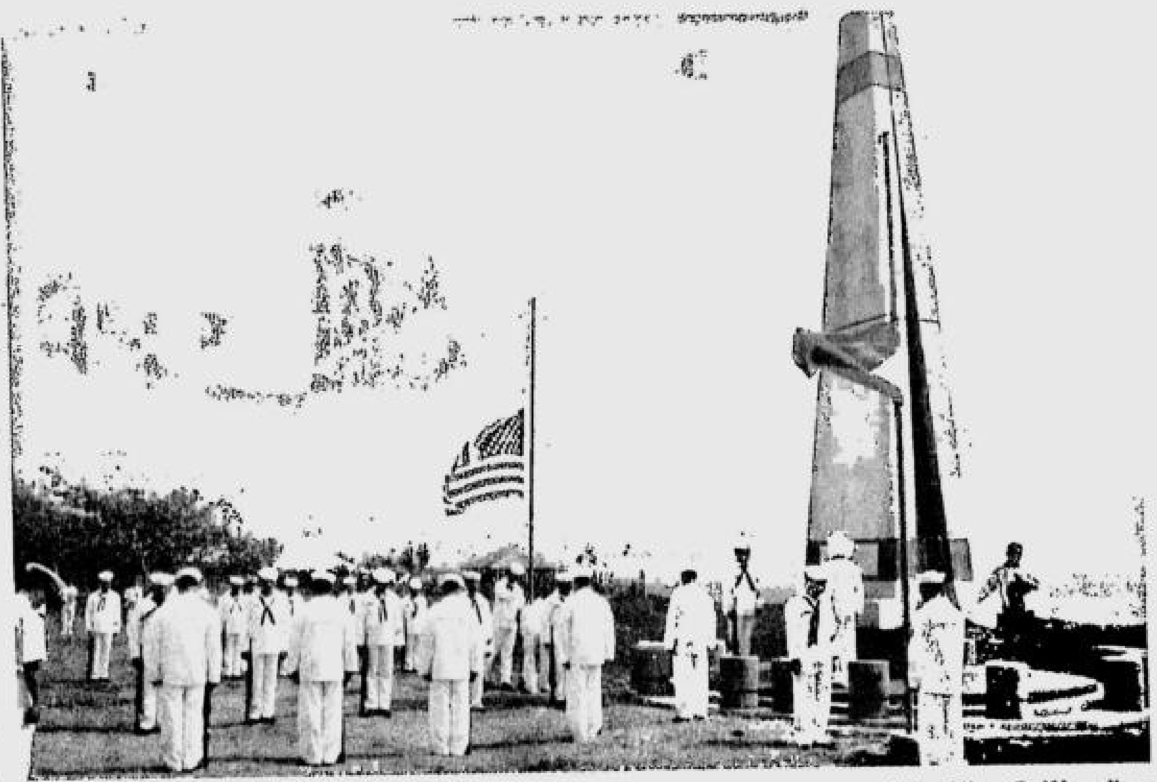
No Pinoys there

NONE OF THE ESTIMATED 550 Filipinos working in Iran were hurt in the powerful earthquake that killed at least 70 people in western Iran on Friday, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

"It's a very remote place. No Filipinos go there," DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said.

He said Filipinos in Iran mostly worked in places where oil facilities and hospitals were located.

About 1,265 were injured in the tremor that wiped out villages, Agence France-Presse reported. *Nikko Dizon*



THE PHILIPPINE and US flags fly in the breeze during yesterday's reenactment of the Albay Gulf Landing during World War II in Legazpi City.

NIÑO JESUS Y. ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Liberation of Bicol during WWII recalled

By Edgar Alejo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY— AMID CLOUDS of sand and water kicked up by thunderous salvoes from four warships in the distance, dozens of "US Marines" waded ashore and engaged an equal number of "Japanese soldiers" in a brief skirmish. In a few more minutes, as the enemy retreated inland, the capture of the beach in Barangay Rawis was complete.

And so was the reenactment of Legazpi City's Liberation Day 61 years ago, when an American armada sailed into Albay Gulf, came ashore and, with the help of Filipino guerrillas, recaptured the city from the Japanese Imperial Forces.

The reenactment, performed by the Naval Forces in Southern Luzon in cooperation with the Air Force and the Mariners Polytechnic Colleges Foundation, was part of Saturday's commemoration of the 61st anniversary of the US landing in Legazpi.

The reenactment was meant to impress on present-day Filipinos the courage of their forebears so they, too, would rise above failure and defeat, Mayor Noel Rosal said in his message.

"We are prepared to bleed for the love of freedom," Rosal said. "Let's liberate ourselves from the complexity of our problems through the spirit and unity shown by our forefathers so that we, too, could overcome difficulties."

The rites, which paid tribute to veterans of the Joint Forces of the Philippine Guerrilla Forces (West Plate) and the Allied American Forces (East Plate) that liberated Legazpi, were led by the Commission on Bikol History and Culture at the Legazpi Gulf Landing Monument.

Jesus Terry Adeveso, presidential assistant for veteran affairs, called the veterans "heroes of our race" even as he acknowledged that the Bicolano veterans were still fighting some battles.

Veteran Geronimo Balantes, 81, secretary of the Veteran Federation of the Philippines (VFP) Sto. Domingo chapter, recalled that they were the ones who met the American forces on the beach.

He said there were about 300 of them who moved out with the Americans toward Kapuntukan Hill along where they engaged Japanese troops in a long firefight all the way to Kimantong, Daraga, Albay.

But it was in Barangay Kitwinan in Camalig town where the Japanese finally surrendered, he said.

Rosalio Bansale, 79, also of Sto. Domingo town, said that since the married guerrillas were discouraged by their wives from going, bachelors like him were the ones who brushed elbows with the Americans in the fight against the Japanese.

Maj. James Norcross, US Marines Defense Office attache, who represented new US Ambassador Kristie Anne Kenney as guest speaker, lauded the enduring alliance between the US and the Philippines.

Pinay caregiver in Canada to stay and fight deportation

By Nikko Dizon

A FILIPINO CAREGIVER, WHO was given until today by Canadian immigration authorities to voluntary leave the country, has decided to stay put and instead challenge the order of the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) office, a Canada-based migrant worker advocacy group said yesterday.

Emelda Emnace, who has been working as a live-in caregiver in Canada for less than two years, has decided not to go home to the Philippines, Glecy Duran, vice chair of Siklab, the national organization of Filipino migrant workers in Canada, told the INQUIRER in an overseas call yesterday.

Duran said that Emnace, a 40-year-old mother of two girls, was a victim of bureaucracy in Canada and the failure of the Canadian government to provide exhaustive information for live-in caregivers on their stay in the country.

According to Siklab, Emnace arrived in Canada in May 2004 and worked for one year as a live-in caregiver taking care of two children for a Vancouver family.

After the family no longer needed her services, Emnace actively sought employment elsewhere.

"She did find another employer but the job didn't materialize. Then she got another job offer. This time, she and her prospective employer submitted to the CIC all the necessary documents," Duran said.

However, due to processing delays, Emnace was not re-issued a valid working permit and lost her temporary status.

"Live-in caregivers under CIC's Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) are required to hold a valid working permit issued by CIC which is good for one year and tie the live-in caregivers to working for only one employer," Siklab said.

Duran said the LCP manual states that caregivers are allowed to change employers under the three year limit and Emnace was very well within the limit.

"Emelda should not be deported because she did her part and looked for employers. The bureaucracy delayed the processing of her papers," Duran said.

By tomorrow, April 3, Emnace would be technically considered "out of status," Duran said.

Emnace has another 30 days until "a removal action by the police or immigration authorities" is implemented, Duran said.

Duran said Emnace and Siklab had asked the CIC to review Emnace's case.

"If our request is denied, we will apply for a 'humanitarian compassionate' (consideration) for her because her abusive ex-husband is still in the Philippines," Duran said.

Gov't overshoots tourist target

By Jerome Aning

FINAL STATISTICS RELEASED Friday by the Department of Tourism confirmed that the government has surpassed its target of 2.6-million foreign visitors in 2005.

DOT assistant secretary for planning and promotions Eduardo Jarque Jr. said the tourism industry in 2005 registered an all-time high of 2,623,083 arrivals, or 14.5 percent more compared to 2004's 2,291,352.

"The strong performance of the industry was a result of intensified marketing campaigns, sales missions and international media exposure of the country, as well as the influx of visitors during the holiday season," Jarque said in a report to Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

December visitors – accounting for a record-breaking monthly arrival count of 281,836 – as well travelers avoiding the tsunami-stricken destinations in Asia in the early months of 2005 also combined to improve the arrivals numbers.

For this year, DOT is counting on the opening of the Ninoy Aquino International Terminal 3 to help reach its target of 3-million inbound tourists. Durano said a bigger airport means more inbound flights and, therefore, more tourists.

Jarque said the launching of Philippine Airlines flights to Beijing, China, has provided additional seats for Chinese tourists, boosting arrivals from the Philippines' fastest growing travel market.

Although the China market ranked only fifth in terms of visitor volume, the 107,456 Chinese tourists who came to the Philippines last year represented a whooping 171.5 percent increase over the number registered in 2004.

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Tragedy tempers 1st Mass rites

LIMASAWA ISLAND, SOUTHERN LEYTE – Simple rites marked the 485th anniversary of the First Mass on this island in deference to the tragedy that occurred in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, a month and a half ago that left some 1,000 people dead.

Limasawa Mayor Albert Esclamado said the town decided to cancel the festivities as a "sign of our respect for the victims of the tragedy."

A food vendor near the Shrine of the Holy Cross where the celebratory Mass presided over by Bishop Precioso Cantillas was held, noted that only a few people attended the celebration.

She said the visitors were fewer by half than those who came for last year's celebration.

'This year's commemoration deviated from the usual activity showcasing the historical and tourism value of Limasawa Island and instead centered on remembering the victims of the Feb. 17 Guinsaugon landslide.

Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, the affair's guest speaker, said she was humbled by the invitation to speak at this particular time.

"I was humbled for this is no ordinary time. Not for Limasawa, not for the province of Southern Leyte, (which is still) reeling from that unspeakable tragedy of which we are still finding the words to describe; of which the whole world cannot seem to make sense of."

"Thankfully, history speaks to us in symbols... 485 years later, the message of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass first held here resonates with greater meaning in Southern Leyte." *Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

E Visayas grads can't find jobs

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY – THE COMMISSION ON Higher Education in Eastern Visayas revealed that out of the 8,000 to 10,000 who graduate from college in the region yearly, only a measly two percent are able to land jobs immediately.

The vast majority have to wait longer to find employment. Worse, some end up not being able to find jobs at all.

Domingo Gencianos, CHEd-8 education supervisor II, said this sad state of affairs was due mainly to the lack of jobs in Eastern Visayas.

"There are not many job opportunities in the region for the thousands who graduate every year," Gencianos told the INQUIRER.

Gencianos said the assessment was based on the "informal surveys" they conduct regularly in the different tertiary schools in the region.

Forter Puguon, regional director of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), said the region's unemployment rate was high.

Based on DOLE-8 records, Eastern Visayas has over nine percent unemployment. Most of the workforce in the region, one of the most depressed in the country, are in the agriculture sector.

With the lack of jobs, Gencianos said, college graduates had resorted to small-scale businesses, like the buying and selling of goods.

"While we do not disagree with their decision to go into business, we still somewhat feel sad that they were not able to make use of what they had learned in college," the CHEd official said.

Others, Gencianos said, seek employment outside the region, mostly in Metro Manila and overseas.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 2, 2006
5th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A new covenant

The time is coming—it is Yahweh who speaks—when I will forge a new covenant with the people of Israel and the people of Judah. It will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. For they broke my covenant although I was their Lord.

This is the covenant I shall make with Israel after that time: I will put my Law within them and write it on their hearts; I will be their God and they will be my people.

And they will not have to teach each other, neighbor or brother, saying: 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the greatest to the lowliest, for I will forgive their wrongdoing and no longer remember their sin.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

He learned obedience

Christ, in the days of his mortal life, offered his sacrifice with tears and cries. He prayed to him who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his humble submission. Although he was Son, he learned through suffering what obedience was, and once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for those who obey him.

Gospel: John 12:20-33.

Hour of Jesus

There were some Greeks who had come up to Jerusalem to worship during the feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went to Andrew and the two of them told Jesus.

Then Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

"Those who love their life destroy it, and those who despise their life in this world keep it for everlasting life.

"Whoever wants to serve me, let him follow me and wherever I am, there shall my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

"Now my soul is in distress. Shall I say: 'Father, save me from this hour?' But, I have come to this hour to face all this. Father, glorify your Name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and I will glorify it again."

People standing there heard something and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel was speaking to him." Then Jesus declared, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours; now sentence is being passed on this world; now the ruler of this world is to be cast down. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself." With these words Jesus referred to the kind of death he was to die.

Commentary

Always the hope for a new covenant, written on hearts, not of stone this time, but flesh and blood. God will have his people and they will be able to know God intimately, from the least to the greatest. Jesus is this covenant—obedience itself—reverent, even in suffering. And it is outsiders who seek the presence of Jesus through Philip's intervention. Jesus proclaims that he, the Son of Man, just judge of the nations, the lamb of God, will be lifted up, crucified, and yet he will be raised in glory by the Father. He is the servant of God and we are to be God's servants. The hour of dying and rising approaches. We, with Jesus, cannot avoid it. And in facing death, judgment comes upon the world, and Jesus will draw all to himself. It is time for us to be drawn to the cross together with Jesus.

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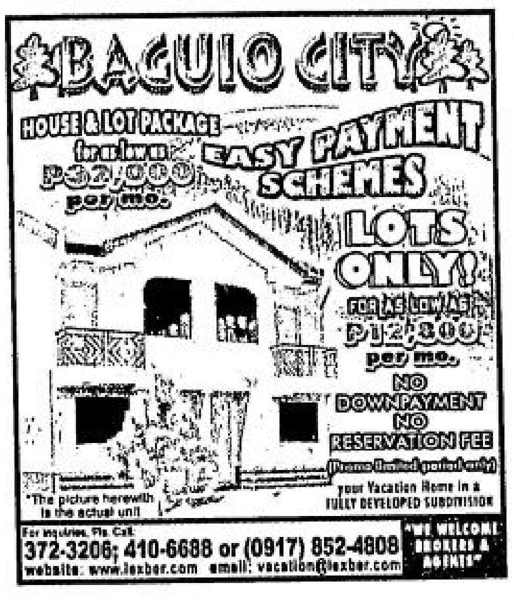
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Naia 3 mishap won't deter airlines

By Nikko Dizon

DESPITE THE COLLAPSE OF A CEILING AT the new Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, domestic and international airlines would still move into the facility as long as the government ensured its safety and settled the legal hassles it is facing.

"The incident won't make us shy away from pursuing the opening of Terminal 3," said Ed Monreal, an airline executive and vice chair of the Airline Operators Council (AOC), in an interview.

The AOC is the organization of local and international airlines operating out of Naia Terminal 1.

Different tale

Monreal said it would have been a different story if it was a part of the structural framework that collapsed.

"It would be tough if it were a column or the floor or a portion of the building that caved in," he said, citing an incident two years ago at the Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris where part of the terminal building collapsed.

"Majority of us still want to transfer to Naia 3. We're only waiting for the outcome of the contract issue. We hope Terminal 3 is opened. It's something we Filipinos will be proud of, and it would be a better terminal to work in," Monreal said.

Congested terminal

He said Naia 1 was becoming more congested, what with new airlines recently allowed to operate out of the two-decade-old terminal.

"For example, the efficiency of the check-in counters at Terminal 1 is no longer maximized, which affects our operations. There is no more room for expansion," Monreal said.

Naia 3 was designed to accommodate 13 million passengers annually.

For his part, Leoncio Nakpil, AOC chair, urged the government to "look into the technical problems" of the Naia 3 building.

Eye-opener

"The government should concentrate on the safety and security aspects of the airport. (The ceiling collapse) was an eye-opener for all of us," Nakpil said.

"We should look beyond the timetable for the opening or the test run, the publicity, the controversies," he added.

For his part, business tycoon Lucio Tan has reiterated his offer of $300 million (P16.5 billion) in exchange for allowing Asia's Emerging Dragon Co. (AEDC), the consortium of taipans of which he is a member, to operate Naia 3.

AEDC lawyer Perfecto Yasay said in a separate interview that the offer was pursuant to the government's build-operate-transfer (BOT) program under which Naia 3 was built.

"After the Supreme Court nullified the government's contract with Piatco (Philippine International Air Terminals Co., builder of the terminal), the contract should be restored to AEDC being the original proponent of the project," Yasay told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Piatco is claiming $650 million as just compensation for Naia 3.

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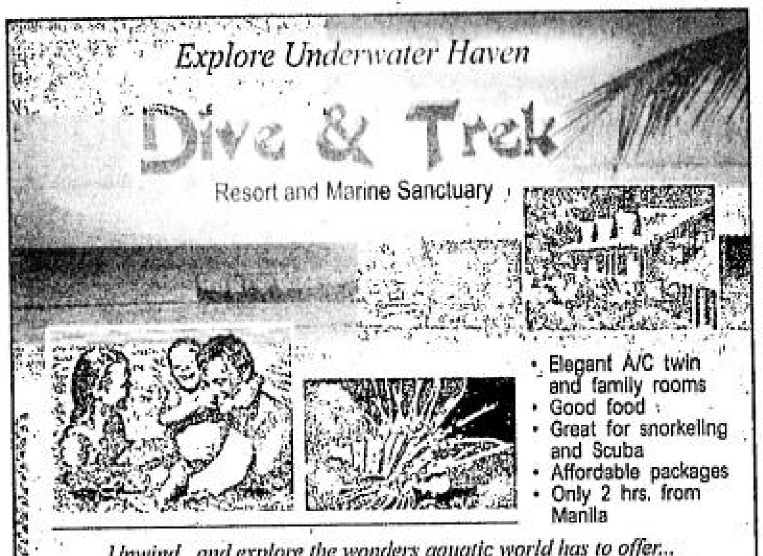

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STL: Money said to be at root of PNP objection

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE HAVE MANY OBJECTIONS to the implementation of the Small Town Lottery, the numbers game being promoted by the government as a replacement for its illegal cousin, "jueteng."

But the objections boil down to one issue: Money.

Specifically, the police want to see clear guidelines on how their share of STL earnings, supposedly pegged at five percent, would be used, according to a ranking official familiar with the police stand on STL.

"Will it be like jueteng, where the commanders spend the money at their own discretion?" the officer said.

The sources for this story refused to be named because they were not authorized to speak on the issue. They hold important posts in the Philippine National Police. One of them had been a provincial director.

When the PNP cracked down on jueteng last year, the former provincial director said, the local police forces had "suffered" because payoffs from the illegal game had been partly subsidizing their operations.

The officer admitted the police were "very interested" in their share from STL operations. The money would help the police a lot, he said.

The other questions besetting the police after the sudden implementation of STL in some parts of the country, according to the source, were:

- How can the police be sure they will be getting 5 percent?
- From whom will the police get their share—from the local STL operator or the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the overseer of the game?
- Will their share go only to the local police forces, or will it also go to the national police? The national police refers to Camp Crame-based offices.

"These are the concerns of the police and the DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government)," the source said.

But another ranking police official said, "*Hindi puede iyan* (That cannot be)," when he was asked if only the local police forces would be getting a share from STL.

(A local police unit, in fact, received some P170,000 during the STL test run this month, but the national police did not get anything. Upon learning this, a police general remarked: "*Dapat man lang may abiso sa taas* (The higher-ups should have been informed of this)."

The senior officer said the way he saw it, the police might have to develop a system to centralize the collection of their share later.

2 alleged carjackers slain in Rizal

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THIS taxi was getting a new paint job courtesy of two alleged carjackers when the pair were accosted by police in Barangay San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal. The paint job was almost finished as the taxi's name can no longer be seen.

JOAN BONDOC

THE STOLEN TAXI WAS GETTING A FRESH coat of paint so that it could be used for some supposedly criminal operation when the lawmen came. Then shots rang out.

When the firing ended, the two men purportedly repainting the taxi were dead, bringing to a bloody close an alleged carjacking operation that began at 1:45 a.m. yesterday in Quezon City and ended seven hours later near Barangay Rolling Hills Subdivision in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Two other people were arrested.

"I instructed my men to just neutralize the suspects and shoot them in their feet. But the suspects were firing at my men," Rodriguez police chief Supt. Manuel Pion said, explaining why the two alleged carjackers were killed.

The dead pair were still unidentified as of press time. Police said the two had opened fire first and that they recovered two revolvers from the scene.

"We believe the suspects were planning to perpetrate other crimes, like bank robbery or kidnapping, and use the taxi as a getaway vehicle," Pion told the INQUIRER.

He said his men got wind of the activities of the group when they received information at 5 a.m. that some people were spray painting a car parked on a street in Rodriguez.

Police launched surveillance operations.

The suspects changed locations three times before hunkering down near Rolling Hills.

Special Weapons and Tactics operatives caught up with them at 7:45 a.m. As the police identified themselves, the two alleged carjackers opened fire, Pion said.

The pair died of multiple gunshot wounds.

The two others, 17-year-old Remae Jane Roño and James Vinluan, 23, were taken in for questioning. Roño and Vinluan denied any involvement with the slain suspects.

Police learned the vehicle being repainted was a Trocadero Transport taxi which was reported stolen by two women and two men in Pag-asa, Quezon City, at 1:45 a.m.

The taxi driver, Albert Acob, went to the Rodriguez police and identified the slain pair as the men who took his vehicle, Pion said.

Acob also identified Roño as one of the two women who flagged down his taxi, police said.

But Roño told the police she was just forced by the suspects to hail the cab. She also said the other woman who flagged down the cab later got off in Payatas.

Vinluan himself said he did not know the suspects. He said he was riding his motorcycle on his way home from a party when one of the two slain suspects approached him at Rolling Hills.

"He suddenly got on my motorcycle and aimed his gun at me. He instructed me to drive the motorcycle to buy paint," Vinluan told the INQUIRER.

Later, he said, the suspects pushed him into the taxi while they painted the vehicle.

It was then that he heard gunshots.

"I raised my hands. I had done nothing wrong," Vinluan said in Filipino.

Pion said he was investigating whether Roño and Vinluan's stories were true.

Evidence vs publisher's killer weak – prosecutor

By Armand N. Nocum

A SENIOR PROSECUTOR who was relieved for ordering the dismissal of a murder charge filed against the alleged mastermind in the killing of Starline Times Recorder publisher Philip Agustin has denied being biased, insisting that the evidence against the accused was weak.

Special Prosecutor Emmanuel Y. Velasco, a former journalist himself, said he even proposed to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez a further investigation of the case to establish the "possible complicity" of Dingalan, Aurora, Mayor Jaime Ylarde in Agustin's killing.

Velasco, head of the Department of Justice panel that conducted the preliminary investigation of the case, said Ylarde "has never been cleared" of involvement in Agustin's killing in Dingalan last May 10.

In his Jan. 26 resolution of the case, Velasco's panel declared that there was not enough evidence to establish whether or not Mayor Ylarde was involved in the killing of Agustin.

But he recommended that "further investigation of the possible involvement" of Ylarde be made by the police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

The decision prompted the relatives of Agustin to file a motion for reconsideration on March 16 and to ask for the disqualification of Velasco from the case, saying the latter's resolution showed "manifest bias" and grave abuse of discretion "in ignoring the vital (pieces of) evidence implicating Mayor Ylarde as principal by inducement in the murder of Agustin."

Acting on the matter, Gonzalez issued a department order on March 17 relieving Velasco from the case due to "serious allegations of partiality and bias" in handling the case.

But in his memorandum to Gonzalez, Velasco said he handled the case with "only one thing in consideration in his mind—enough evidence that will stand in court against the accused."

He said the allegations against him were "utterly without basis."

"It is very unfair to the undersigned. The record speaks for itself," he said as he agreed to inhibit himself from the case.

Also charged in the crime were Reynato Morete, Nilo Morete and Emmanuel Alday. Nilo and Alday remain at large.

Reynato, who was earlier arrested for the crime, has turned state witness.

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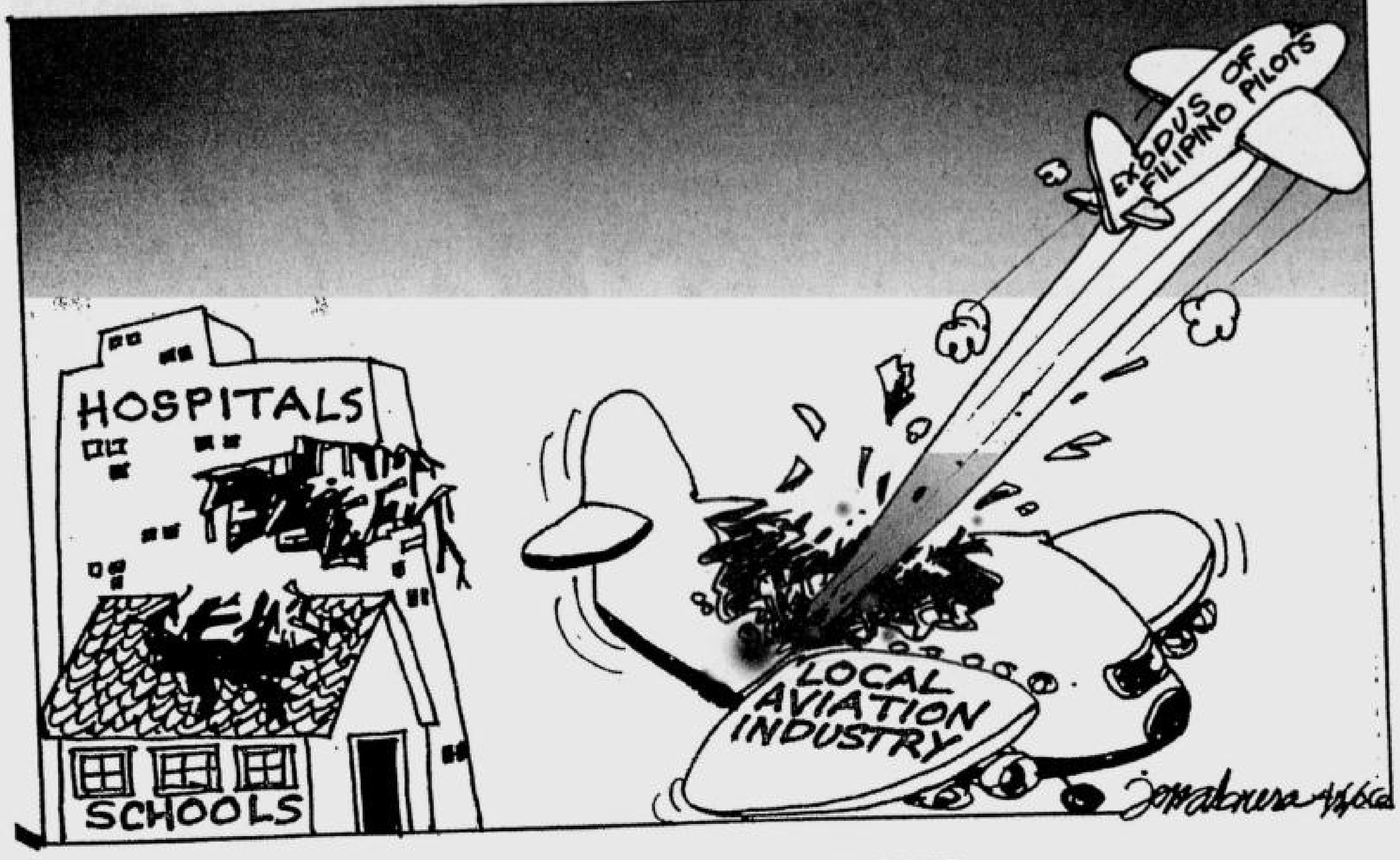


Destructive politics

EDITORIAL

COLUMNIST SOLITA MONSOD GOT IT EXACTLY right. President Macapagal-Arroyo's use of the train metaphor to describe the administration's Charter change strategy has inadvertently revealed its true nature.

"The true power of the people is being felt with the signature campaign to change our form of government," the President had said the other day, in a transparent effort to emphasize the distinction between "the people" and the political class. "The old-time politicians of the status quo better stand back because this train has left the station. It is time for politicians to stand back or get run over."

The President's curious choice of words reveals an almost murderous glee in the railroading of opposition and resistance. Old-time politicians? She must have especially meant those obstreperous senators, who have the temerity to insist on irritating inconveniences like the rule of law.

Of course, once upon a time, she had famously used the entrenched culture of old-time politics itself as part of the institutional rationalization for the Garcillano scandal. In explaining her "lapse in judgment" in calling an election official while canvassing for the 2004 vote was still ongoing, she repeatedly pointed to the degeneration in Philippine politics.

But she had always assumed, in her key statements, that while she was a product of "old-time" politics, she had the privilege of leading the transition to a new political order. Naturally, this begs the question: Why does a master of old-time politics get to ride **this** train, instead of standing by or getting run over?

The real answer, of course, is because she can. In the last few months, the Arroyo administration has put in place a new, ultimately counter-democratic policy, a way of proceeding which we can summarize in chilling terms: The political trumps the merely legal or the ethical. If it's within the reach of the so-called art of the possible, it will do. Let the Supreme Court or the people's conscience take their sweet time reaching decisions or resolving issues.

It is in this sordid light that Malacañang's deliberately tardy embrace of the politicians' initiative, coursed through barangay assemblies, makes most sense. The Supreme Court had ruled almost a decade ago that the first attempt at an enabling law for a people's initiative was inadequate. And yet the administration (in whose ranks we must include the nominally independent Commission on Elections) is pushing through with the initiative. Its message is clear: Let the high court play catch-up, if it can.

With the President's endorsement of the so-called "people's initiative" to create an interim parliament, Malacañang's protestations of non-involvement in the signature campaign turned into earnest exhortations. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the President's spokesperson, said the time for constitutional change was ripe. "We have achieved momentum. Let us not lose it through destructive politics."

But Bunye also unburdened himself of an inadvertently revealing cliché: "It is time for us to cross the Rubicon."

The phrase, of course, means to make a crucial decision, to pass a turning point. But again, servant mirrored master in the curious choice of words.

If Bunye knows his history, he should have known that when Julius Caesar finally crossed the Rubicon, Rome's most famous warrior started a civil war. That war eventually led to the death of the republic and the birth of the Roman empire.

Under Roman law, a commander of a Roman army was banned from crossing the Rubicon river—at that time a border that marked the territory of the city of Rome itself—with the army under his command. The law was meant to protect the capital from falling under the influence of the military. When Caesar finally crossed the Rubicon (according to the histories, that's when he coined the phrase "the die is cast"), his action led directly to civil strife.

The end of "destructive politics"? On the contrary. The momentum the Arroyo administration has generated signals the start of even more political divisiveness. The die is cast. And the stakes are unbearably high.

Your Honors, RSVP

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

REACTING TO MY COLUMN OF MARCH 4, 2006, a reader apparently refutes my accusation that President Macapagal-Arroyo has abused her military powers and quotes from my book on Philippine Political Law to hoist me with my own petard. The quoted portion reads:

"The 'power of the sword' makes the President the most important figure in times of war or other similar emergency. In theory, he plans all campaigns, establishes all sieges and blockades, directs all marches, and fights all battles. His leadership, if bold and decisive, can galvanize the people to gallantry or, if vacillating and timorous, can enfeeble them to defeatism and surrender. It is because the sword must be wielded with courage and resolution that the President is given vast powers in the making of military decisions.

"Accordingly, it has been held that he can determine what degree of force a particular crisis demands, as when President Lincoln declared a blockade of the Confederate ports during the American civil war; organize courts martial for the discipline of the members of the armed forces violating military law; create military commissions for the punishment of war criminals; and call out the armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion."

All correct except that the word "enfeeble" was inadvertently replaced with "enable."

But the discussion was of the military powers of the President "in times of war or other similar emergency," which was not the situation of the country when President Arroyo issued her Proclamation No. 1017 last February. We were not threatened with invasion from a foreign enemy, the local subversives were no more menacing (although noisier) than usual, and what she called a "cabal" at Fort Bonifacio did not have the dimensions of a national emergency.

What the Supreme Court should do is simply deny such motions and consider the laggards in default for their delay

In fact, President Arroyo lifted her proclamation one week later on the ground that the "emergency" that justified it had abated. She added the reservation, though, that she would issue it again whenever she saw fit as commander in chief of the Armed Forces under her control or controlling her. Significantly, Congress has not granted her emergency powers under Art. VI, Sec. 23(2) nor has she proclaimed martial law, with all its limitations under Art. VII, Sec. 18, of the Constitution she wants to revise.

Despite the lack of such authorizations, she continues to order warrantless arrests of her suspected enemies, threaten the media, break up peaceful rallies and assemblies, intimidate critics of her administration, limit the lawful investigations of Congress, and exercise other arbitrary powers as if we were at war or under a national emergency of her own making.

Proclamation No. 1017 and her earlier Executive Order No. 464 have been under protest for quite a while now before the Supreme Court, which has yet to rule on the constitutional issues raised by the controversial measures. The latest report is that the high tribunal has chided the parties for their repeated motions for extensions of time to file their pleadings but, as I suggested earlier in this column, what it should do is simply deny such motions and consider the laggards in default for their delay.

Or perhaps, and I say this with due respect, the justices are themselves biding their time to carefully study the pros and cons of the vital constitutional questions before them prior to arriving at a just and fearless decision worthy of the highest tribunal as the impregnable citadel of law and justice.

Still, considering the lapse of time since the presidential acts were judicially challenged, I should think that the justices should have already thoroughly examined and analyzed the cases before them to be able to resolve them correctly. I know that they have a period of 24 months to do this, but I hope they will not wait until 2008 to rule on the constitutionality of Proclamation No. 1017 and EO No. 464.

Every morning, I wait with trepidation to see if the INQUIRER is finally reporting that the awaited decisions of the Supreme Court on these cases have been made at long last. Although such a report will make this article obsolete, I am hopeful just the same that such decisions will be rendered soon to appease the tensions and for the information of the anxious public.

Whether the justices will support President Arroyo or invalidate her challenged acts, the Supreme Court will have thereby defined its stand, for the people to accept or reject, through lawful democratic processes, as the Court of Last Resort. Meanwhile, *tempus fugit*.

Seeing Jesus

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A HUNTER WHO discovered that his new dog could walk on water. Overjoyed, he invited his neighbor to go with him the following day. Sure enough, the dog would walk on water to retrieve every duck they hit. Unable to contain his excitement, the hunter blurted out: "Did you notice anything unusual about my dog?" After some thought, the neighbor replied: "Yeah, your dog can't swim!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 12, 20-33), we are told that some Greeks had gone to Philip with a request to see Jesus. These "outsiders" appreciated Jesus, while His fellow Jews—for whom He had performed many wonders and signs—did not and doubted Him. Miracles are all about us, and many signs are given to us, and yet we often miss the point and do not see Jesus.

* * *

People who are focused on themselves can hardly see Jesus. "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." Selfish and greedy people find it difficult to accept Jesus and His message of sacrifice and self-denial. How difficult indeed for the rich and those so full of themselves to enter the kingdom of God.

* * *

Powerful people will have a hard time seeing and appreciating Jesus and His message about servanthood. "Whoever serves me must follow me." People who have servants, money and power at their beck and call hardly find the need to call on Jesus because their sense of security is anchored on the things of this world. Sometimes, God has to remove those things that give a person a feeling of security in order to make him/her realize his/her folly.

* * *

People who are not submissive to the Divine Will also find it hard to see Jesus. People who have their own agenda in life hardly pay attention or give value to God's agenda in their lives. People who know how to pray "Thy will be done," and who say "Father, glorify your name" are the ones who see Jesus in everything that happens in their lives.

* * *

A young doctor approached me last Monday afternoon to tell me how close he had been to death. He and others were trapped in a burning building. In that helpless situation, he just surrendered everything to the Lord and said "Lord, if you will take me now, please accept me in your kingdom." He told me that he took courage from the words I said during my homily the day before, that it is better to be presumptuous of God's love than to doubt God's love. Somehow, he said, he was at peace and ready for anything. Well, thank God he lived, but he certainly sees Jesus more clearly now because of his eyeball-to-eyeball experience with death. People who accept the reality of death see Jesus as the way, the truth and the life. Don't wait till you are at the doorsteps of eternity before you realize what life is all about.

* * *

A friend finally let go of a sinful relationship. It was a very painful sacrifice, but she did it, with God's grace. Surprisingly, she is strong, and what preoccupies her thoughts now is not so much the man she loved, but the God who loves her and who is drawing her to Himself. She realized that she had forgotten her God. She is still in pain, but very much at peace, all because she finally learned to let go, and let God.

* * *

Inviting you to our 10th Annual Family Recollection on Palm Sunday, April 9, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Meralco Theatre, which will be held with the help of the Mission Angels. This year's theme is "Letting go, letting God, and moving on." Start the Holy Week right. Bring the whole family. For inquiries call 7217457 or 4147044. Admission is free. Some priests will be there to give you the opportunity for confession and reconciliation with God.

* * *

Now available at Logos Publications (Tel. No. 7111323; telefax 7322736; e-mail info@logospublications.com) is the book of Fr. Leonardo N. Mercado, SVD, titled "Political and Legal Philosophies: Western, Eastern and Filipino." This book could help us understand the political events currently unfolding in our country.

* * *

Think about it: At the end of our lives, when we finally see God face to face, and He tenderly asks us, "My child, did you love me when you were still alive?" I hope you and I can answer, "Lord, you know me, and you know that I tried, I really tried to love you in my life."

* * *

For your prayer request, just type F J REQ <message> then send to 2948 for Globe and Sun, and 3940 for Smart. To know more about Father Jerry's text service, type FR. JERRY, then send to 2948 for Globe and Sun, and 3940 for Smart.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remove the blocks that prevent me from seeing you and from loving you in my life. Amen

How things have changed

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

NEXT TUESDAY, APRIL 4, MARKS THE GOLDEN anniversary of PMA Class 1956. For the past few weeks, the surviving members of the class have been involved in activities commemorating this important milestone. From an original group numbering more than 80, only 51 of us were commissioned as second lieutenants in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. After 50 years, perhaps our greatest achievement can be measured in terms of 229 children, 222 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

During the four years of our cadetship from 1952 to 1956, we served under two Ilocano presidents, Elpidio Quirino from Ilocos Sur and Ramon Magsaysay from Zambales. This may come as a surprise, but not once did we get the opportunity to see the commander in chief in person, to hear him speak to us or to shake his hand. Not once did we honor either of them with a parade and review. We lived in a world that was completely insulated from politics and politicians. There was no television; no radios were allowed in our barracks, and no newspapers were easily available on a daily basis. Only the occasional visit of some foreign dignitary broke the dull routine of our everyday existence. In those days, the place was still known as Loakan. It was only after several years that the site was christened Fort Del Pilar, in honor of the youngest general in the Philippine revolution against Spain.

As I mentioned in an earlier column, our commencement speaker at graduation—it was a period known as April Week—was the No. 4 official of the land, House Speaker Jose Laurel Jr. President Ramon Magsaysay was not available; Vice President Carlos P. Garcia was busy with some other engagement; and so was Senate President Gil Puyat. But I guess for us, it really didn't matter who was going to be around. We had our loved ones and that was what counted. There was very little media coverage of the event. I don't think our graduation even made the inside pages of the newspapers.

Today things are not quite the same as before. Since the martial law years, only the commander in chief is invited to be the guest of honor during graduation rites. If one includes the first term of President Marcos, this means that for almost 20 years—from 1966 to 1985—the cadets had only one guest of honor for that occasion—Marcos. Presidents Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo continued the practice. But this year, GMA did her predecessors one better: she tendered a dinner in honor of the graduating class at Mansion House, the presidential retreat in Baguio City.

At one time, I suggested that, perhaps, the academy should take the risk of inviting someone else to its commencement exercises. It could be the leader of the opposition or, maybe, a war hero from among its alumni. I recall that US Sen. John McCain, a Vietnam war veteran with a distinguished record, was the commencement speaker at the US naval academy several years ago. In fact, I believe that McCain belonged to the "opposition" party in those days.

But who is the brave soul in the military institution who would even dare hint that someone else other than the President should be considered for this event? Unfortunately, in our culture, it probably would be looked upon as a sign of disloyalty bordering on treason.

But I see an advantage in breaking this practice which is in danger of becoming a tradition. If we are to show our cadets that they owe their loyalty to the Constitution rather than to an individual, what better way of making them aware of this distinction than by allowing them to interact on such a significant occasion with other elements of our political life? This, of course, presumes a set of leaders—from both the opposition and the administration—possessing great strength and moral character, coupled with an open mind and an open heart.

This year, the graduating Class of 2006 was made up of 324 members. That's almost the size of the entire cadet corps during our time. Like the previous classes, the bulk of PMA Class 2006 is headed for the Army and, most likely, its members will receive their baptism of fire against Muslim secessionists and New People's Army elements within days of reporting to their respective assignments.

The life of a platoon leader is not an easy one. In my case, I had the good fortune of having a grizzled, old veteran for my platoon sergeant. He taught me things not found in the textbooks and training manuals of the academy. I shall always be grateful for his wisdom and guidance.

* * *

Air Force notes: Last Friday saw the graduation of 46 new military pilots from the Philippine Air Force Flying School in Lipa City. Thirty-three of them were student officers from the PMA while 13 were aviation cadets. Against the backdrop of an exodus of local commercial pilots to foreign lands, the government should pursue with greater resolve the expansion of the current training programs of the Flying School. One suggestion from the Asian Institute of Management is to devote some resources for the purchase of relatively inexpensive light aircraft that can be used primarily for maintaining the flying proficiency of our pilots instead of waiting, waiting for promised aid that apparently will not see the light of day during our time.

Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, PMA Class 1985, was the senior guest panelist on a recent TV program featuring the Air Force. Once again, he came across as an articulate, knowledgeable spokesman for his organization. And he smiles! The Air Force is fortunate to have him in this important role.

Women with curves

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SET TO PREMIERE ON HBO ASIA THIS TUESDAY (April 4) at 10 p.m. is the HBO Original Movie "Real Women Have Curves."

It stars America Ferrera as Ana, a young Mexican-American woman. (This movie gave Ferrera her first screen role, although she must already be familiar to Filipino audiences through a later film, "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants.")

Lupe Ontiveros, Ana's mother Carmen, is another familiar figure. She stars in "Real Women" and she must by now be best known as the overbearing mother-in-law of Gabrielle (Eva Longoria) in "Desperate Housewives."

"Real Women Have Curves" is based on the play by Josefina Lopez and is directed by Patricia Cardoso. When it was first shown at the Sundance Film Festival in 2002, the movie won both the Audience and Special Jury Awards for Ontiveros and Ferrera.

Young Filipino women might find many things in common with Ana who, as the movie opens, has just graduated from high school and is struggling to come to terms with herself, her heritage, her family and her body. The last is especially difficult to achieve given that her mother is constantly on her case to lose weight and dress better, if only to land herself a husband who will set her on the road to her "true" destiny as a wife and mother.

But Ana has other plans for herself. Her teacher and champion, portrayed by George Lopez, believes enough in her to work to get her a scholarship to Columbia University, despite Ana's own lack of confidence and her parents' opposition. She knows sharing the fate that ties her mother and older sister Estela to grunge work in a garments shop is not for her. And neither is early marriage nor motherhood. What is a young woman to do at a crossroads in her life, on a hot sultry summer in LA?

* * *

ONE of the things she can do is to finally declare independence from her mother's strictures.

Sweltering in the airless interiors of her sister's garments shop—there is a fan but it cannot be turned on as it would raise dust—Ana begins to strip to her underwear, much to the chagrin of Carmen who feels embarrassed and angered by her daughter's wanton display of ample flesh. But, in a scene that is easily the film's highlight, the other women in the garments shop, including Estela, follow Ana's example and begin to compare cellulite and stretch marks.

It is a moment both sweet and exhilarating. By refusing to remain covered-up, Ana and the women are declaring independence. Not just from hot and restrictive clothing, but also from shame and embarrassment that have kept them from appreciating their womanly forms and their curvaceous figures. Shedding their clothes, they are also declaring their personal freedom from social expectations of how a "proper" woman, on the prowl for a husband, should look like, behave and believe.

Estela, dutiful and decorous, has long labored under her mother's pressure for her to get married, gently sliding into compliant spinsterhood had it not been for the example set by the "baby" in the family. Slowly, fitfully, Estela begins to explore her artistry and assert her own autonomy. And Carmen, in denial about her age (she "mistakes" her approaching menopause for pregnancy), and desperate to keep her youngest child in her tight embrace, gradually learns to let go, however painful it might be.

* * *

BUT it is Ana, in the powerful personification of Ferrera, who stages the most dramatic breakaway. In that single summer, she comes into her own as a woman, and discovers depths—and curves and folds and pleasures—in herself.

Even if forced to work in Estela's dress shop, steam-ironing fancy gowns—for which the wholesaler pays them $12 each and then retails them for over $300 each—Ana begins to learn valuable lessons from her co-workers, her sister and her mother. Lessons in hard work and putting in hours of honest labor. Lessons in doing your share for a group effort. Lessons on speaking out and speaking up.

But most of all, Ana realizes that it is only by being true to herself, by keeping faith in her own abilities and gifts, and by loving her own body can she find her own road and discover her real destiny.

* * *

THERE are no real arcs to this simple coming-of-age story. There is no one single breakthrough moment where Ana transforms from an adolescent full of questions and doubts, to a young adult forging her future.

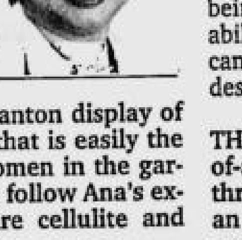
Instead, what we have are many moments of triumph, as in that "stripping" scene in the factory, or when Ana insists that her boyfriend turn on the light before they start making love, forcing him to look at her body, after which he declares "you're beautiful."

"Real Women Have Curves" takes us on a journey with Ana, and like all journeys in life, it is not straightforward, but rather meandering and full of detours. But the story does get to its destination, and we are all the richer for taking the trip.

Another thing I like about the movie is its setting in the Mexican-American culture, chockfull of telling details—from the wall murals that abound in the barrio, to the *mariachi* crossing the street, clad in their brilliant costumes, to Ana's "*primos*" singing for her on the occasion of her graduation, and even the statue of San Antonio in the kitchen shelf, whose presence is meant to guarantee a husband for the family's blossoming baby.

Carmen the mother is ostensibly the movie's villain, but the character instead evokes sympathy, if not fondness. I confess to recognizing my own mother in her character—alternately stern and demanding, gentle and comforting, and a first-class exploiter of filial guilt, a drama queen of the first order. If only for making me remember Mama, I'm grateful for the time I spent with Ana and the other real women with curves. After all, I'm also one of them!

Doing it right



PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ONE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT ALMOST EVERY Filipino today desires change in the way the nation is run. What form that change should take is, however, the subject of much debate. Some believe that if only we can have better leaders, there may be no need to change the system. Others think the quality of our leaders is itself a result of the defective system we have.

I think that if Filipinos were asked today to choose between changing the Constitution and changing Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the great majority would junk Ms Arroyo and keep the Constitution. This does not mean that the people are satisfied with the 1987 Constitution. Indeed, many may think that an entirely new constitution is the cure-all for the nation's problems. But serious advocates of the rewriting of the Constitution know that a basic requirement for doing it right is the insulation of the process from the narrow objectives of partisan politics. Right now, it is such objectives that are driving the "Charter Express."

It is obvious what these are. The first is to abolish the Senate, the only branch of government that has dared to investigate criminal charges against Ms Arroyo with persistence and independence. It is this Senate that will automatically constitute itself as an impeachment court the moment an impeachment complaint obtains a one-third vote in the House of Representatives. The second is to lay to rest, once and for all, the legitimacy questions that have hounded Ms Arroyo's presidency since 2001, and all the criminal charges arising from the fraudulent conduct of the 2004 elections.

Clearly, Charter change, by hook or by crook, is Ms Arroyo's last card in her bid to survive till 2010 and avoid prosecution and imprisonment at the end of her term. This is the institutional route she offers as a way of resolving all challenges to her rule. Given the weakness of her hand, this bid is truly astounding in its brazenness. It concedes nothing, not even a shortening of her term as President. Yet it rests on nothing more than the notorious ability of her political operators to produce outcomes by preying upon the poverty, the indifference and ignorance of the masses.

By its constitution, a nation declares itself as a legal and political community. The constitution expresses our self-understanding—who we are, and how we have been shaped by our customs and beliefs, and by our past. It situates the nation in the modern world, and embodies its understanding of the various external forces that shape and constrain the nation's life. And finally, the constitution lays down the system of power deemed appropriate to the nation's goals, the institutional arrangements by which the state governs, and a statement of the people's basic rights.

Rewriting a constitution need not be a hit-and-miss affair. There's a way of doing it that minimizes the perils of blind experimentation or utopian thinking, and points the way to a living and usable Charter. We might learn a thing or two from New Zealand's experience.

Although it has operated for the most part without a written constitution, New Zealand has, since 1980, tinkered with its basic conventions and parliamentary acts. In April 2000, the Institute of Policy Studies, a think-tank in the Victoria University of Wellington, convened a path-breaking conference on "Building the Constitution." The conference aimed to take stock of what the country has learned from its previous efforts to craft a living constitution.

The organizers commissioned brief papers (not more than four pages) covering a wide range of topics. A quick glance at the themes taken up gives us an idea of the conceptual map that guided the conference.

There were 10 sessions: (1) "What constitutes our nation" discussed the cultural and historical realities that have shaped the national consciousness; (2) "The constraints of treaties and international law" dealt with aspects of international law, and the constraints posed by a globalized economy; (3) "What constitutes the constitution" looked at the political origins and legal framework of the existing constitution; (4) "The treaty of Waitangi and the constitution" dealt with the basis of the nation's sovereignty and Maori rights; (5) "Multiculturalism and the constitution" tackled issues of cultural diversity and national integration; (6) "Who should be head of state" examined the implications of declaring a republic or staying with the Crown; (7) "The Cabinet, public service, and sub-national government" tackled the relationship between the Cabinet and the Parliament, the civil service, and the role of local governments and community organizations; (8) "Should parliament be changed" examined the various options pertaining to representation; (9) "What role for the judges" reviewed the proper scope of judicial authority; and (10) "A written constitution?" discussed the pros and cons of shifting from the Westminster tradition to a republican form with an embedded bill of rights.

I do not mean for this list to serve as a model for the Philippines, for indeed it reflects the specific priorities and concerns of today's New Zealanders. We should have our own list expressing the problems and dilemmas we have encountered in the course of our nation's life.

You put such an imaginary list side by side the stupid omnibus question that serves as the basis for the signature campaign of the so-called "people's initiative," and you get an idea of the contempt with which the Arroyo regime regards our people.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Graduation, high heels and changing the world

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO GRADUATING EVER since I was shoved sobbing into my first nursery classroom. If I get my hands on that diploma, I swear to all the saints in heaven that I will give up fast food, read intelligent, mind-expanding literature instead of ten-peso romance novels, and spend at least one hour a day in healthy exercise. I'll give anything: my soul, my battered teddy bear Alex, my hour of watching Princess Lulu on TV—all I want is that sheet of paper. I'm not asking for much, just a miracle. Hopefully in the form of a three in Spanish 11 and a signature on my thesis acceptance form.

I've been camping out in front of my thesis adviser's third-floor office for the last couple of weeks. The janitor is so used to seeing me sprawled on the floor that he's taken to sweeping around me instead of asking me to shove over. I'm guessing he's noticed that the rather sizeable square area my butt occupies is shinier than the rest of the hallway. I'm glad to be of service.

The other day, I was in my usual spot when I saw John Lloyd Cruz racing down the hall. He stopped short when he saw me, smiled that charming, slightly confused grin, then crouched down to my level to ask me if he could keep me company. I bit my lip, batted my eyelashes and tucked my hair behind my ear. Yes, John darling, yes, a thousand times yes—and in true dramatic form, I woke up to my adviser's raised eyebrow and her voice ringing in my head.

"Patricia, what are you doing there?"

"Sleeping, ma'am."

"Did you get any sleep last night?"

"No ma'am," I said.

She opened the door to her office. "Good."

I've been living on energy drinks lately. They work, trust me, especially with a shot of espresso. I'd gulp down a couple of glasses; sit down in front of my laptop, and type away like a maniac. I go from a limp rag to a bouncing, giggling pajama-clad monster in the space of two minutes. Half the time, I feel like I should be typing, jogging and singing "The Hills Are Alive" all at once.

When my adviser began texting me that it would be best if I put off sleeping for a week or so, I thought she was kidding. She wasn't. At the rate my thesis is going, I'm beginning to wish I'd stopped sleeping two months ago. My thesis is qualitative instead of quantitative, for no other reason than that I have difficulty adding two digit-numbers. The thought of running a statistical analysis is more frightening for me than tripping spread-eagled while wearing a miniskirt in front of a crowded cafeteria. Oh wait, been there, done that.

I've been begging interviews from people I've never seen, calling in favors from everyone I've met or could have possibly met in the last 20 years, and I've reached a point where the thought of eight hours' sleep is as ridiculous as getting my dog to realize his name isn't "No." As I type now, my eyes are crossing, the screen is getting fuzzy and my unmade, clothing-strewn bed is beginning to look like a feather-stuffed cloud. I'm out of caffeine. If I live through this with my mind intact, I'll be very surprised. I spent 20 minutes looking for my cell phone yesterday until I realized I could call it to make it ring, and when I found it, I spent the next 20 staring into space, trying to figure out how to make my wallet ring. Kuya Cesar, who drives our shuttle-slash-jeep, has taken to asking me every morning if my thesis was done. He hasn't gotten a "yes," not yet.

I had my defense the other day, and had less than 10 minutes to get dressed, get to school and get ready to be interrogated. So there I was, crawling across the floor of my bedroom, trying to find my black heels and coming up with one left and one right from two different pairs. My adviser's one warning the day before my defense was "please dress decently." I found my suit jacket covered with white cat hair, jumped into the jeep, jumped off, jumped on again to fetch the jacket I'd left on the floor, and found myself in the middle of the road when the clouds burst open and water started pouring down. And no, heels are not made for running.

I'm beginning to wonder what all this is going to amount to. Not just this, the whole 17 years of classrooms and textbooks and memorizing names of dead men. I mean sure, what like every other girl below the age of 25 dreams of, after I graduate, I want to save the world, solve world hunger, make a difference, and hopefully buy three pairs of stiletto heels a week (I know a couple of guys who will agree with that statement). But they say it's the idealists who suffer most, because the real world doesn't want salvation. But I'm at the grand old age of 20—today, I can believe I can do anything.

I'm off to thesis work again—monumental revisions before the-powers-that-be sign those empty boxes in my acceptance form. When all this is over, I'm going to set my alarm clock for 5 a.m. every morning and happily sleep through it. But whether I march down the university stadium this year or the next (please let it be this year), I'd like to send out a huge congratulatory shout to all the new graduates of 2006. May the force be with you, and may the world blink with your coming.

* * *

E-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

THEY SAID

Useless formula

"No amount of five-point guidance will remove the restiveness among military personnel, especially when the central figure in the 'Hello Garci' tape is now the prospective replacement of General Senga (AFP chief of staff) while the others were rewarded with the choicest positions."

—Sen. Panfilo Lacson on Senga's formula for quieting military restiveness

Opportunities

"Take all available opportunities and, if not, make these opportunities available."

—Top Philippine Military Academy graduate 2nd Lt. Ariel Toledo in his speech during the PMA's graduation rites

Emotional being

"Being gay is not a state of mind; it's your emotional being. I've never had a boyfriend but it doesn't mean that I'm not gay. I don't have to be a screaming faggot to be gay. This is me, and I'm gay."

—Actor Rustom Padilla

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

One nation, three worlds

THE THREE WORLDS OR ECONOMIC SYSTEMS IN THE PHILIPPINES THAT DEvelopment economist Sixto Roxas is referring to are the metropolitan centers, agrarian societies and indigenous communities.

Under the present setup, growth is defined as the expansion of the metropolitan economy as a result of the transfer of assets and control of resources from the rural communities, according to Roxas.

He says the focus continues to be on the gross domestic product, which does not reflect the real incomes of most Filipinos.

The economist claims that the development strategy—liberalization of trade, opening up of the country to foreign investors, privatization of public corporations and emphasis on export-oriented industries—that the government has pursued since the '60s has resulted in environmental degradation and more people living in poverty.

Roxas proposes a development strategy that seeks to empower the people outside the metropolitan centers.

He is pushing for sustainable countryside development in which an increase in the net income and net worth of communities is considered the more appropriate indicator of development.

ILLUSTRATION AND PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

Top and bottom provinces in inequality
based on share in consumption of poorest 10% to richest 10% (2003)

Most Inequitable Provinces	Poorest 10%	Richest 10%	Ratio: Richest 10% to Poorest 10%	Least Inequitable Provinces	Poorest 10%	Richest 10%	Ratio: Richest 10% to Poorest 10%
Iloilo	2.8	31.9	11.6	Batanes	6.0	17.7	3.0
Davao del Sur	2.6	30.8	11.8	Apayao	5.0	19.2	3.8
Misamis Oriental	2.6	30.5	11.9	Sulu	5.1	19.6	3.9
Zamboanga del Sur	2.7	33.1	12.4	Tawi-Tawi	5.0	20.0	4.0
Bukidnon	2.6	33.1	12.7	Basilan	5.1	23.2	4.5
Zamboanga del Norte	2.8	36.2	13.0	Maguindanao	4.8	25.2	5.2
Cebu	2.4	31.7	13.4	Guimaras	4.5	24.3	5.5
Camarines Norte	2.9	39.3	13.5	Biliran	5.7	31.9	5.6
Negros Oriental	2.3	37.3	16.3	Sorsogon	4.8	27.3	5.7
Lanao del Norte	2.4	41.4	17.0	Ifugao	4.4	25.1	5.7

Note Metro Manila [illegible]
Source Philippine Human Development Report 2005

By Sixto K. Roxas

THE LEYTE AND "WOWOWEE" tragedies highlight in gruesome sharpness the two perennial problems of the country: poverty and environmental destruction.

To understand the depths of our problems, we must see the Filipino nation as composed of three worlds—three economic and social systems.

Eighty-five million people in some 17 million households live in habitats that range from coastal fishing villages, lowland river valleys, and alluvial plains to rolling lands and steep mountain ranges, and in sprawling metropolitan centers.

Some 30 percent of these households are in an economic system more intimately linked with the world trading system than with the rest of the country's hinterland.

They are the import-dependent enterprises of Metro Manila, Subic, Clark, Cebu and Davao, textile mills and food processing plants, industries in the export processing zones, logging and mining companies, plantations and service establishments that provide power, communications, insurance, banking and other financial and clerical services to these enterprises and their households.

Most of our people, perhaps two-thirds, live in the commercializing agrarian societies—fisherfolk, rice, corn and coconut farmers, small traders, artisans and service people, landowners and proprietors in the lesser cities.

A small minority are the tribal peoples in small, largely self-sufficient and subsistence communities on remote islands and highlands of the country.

Combined, these agrarian and tribal settlements encompass some 11 or 12 million families living in some 225 watershed communities.

Metro commands attention

Seventy percent of Filipinos are in these tribal and agrarian worlds; 30 percent, in the metropolitan enclaves. Tragically, it is the metropolitan sector that commands the primary attention and is too often taken to represent the totality of the Filipino nation.

National policy has paid less attention to helping the 70 percent of the Filipino people acquire the technology, organization, and human and capital resources to make use of their resources in order to raise themselves to higher levels of economic efficiency and improve their living standards.

Instead, growth policy has meant having the metropolitan economy appropriate and acquire control of the land, forests, minerals, marine and fresh water resources of the rural communities to serve the needs of urban and foreign export markets and further enrich the rich and powerful minority.

In fact, the growth strategy of the government and the acquisitive instincts of the metropolitan elite systematically transfer assets and control of resources away from the rural sector. The expansion of these enclaves of wealthy and westernized communities has become the very definition of growth and progress.

Unsustainable

Realistically, a growth strategy that does not give the highest priority to the needs of the community stakeholders cannot be sustainable, economically, ecologically, socially or politically.

The three-tiered structure of Filipino society has persisted over the six-decade history of the country as an independent republic. The structure has remained as a result of a wide spectrum of economic policies, strategies and political systems.

The Constitutional Commission that was drafted, after Edsa I, what became the Constitution of 1987 embodied in principles and guidelines what the people were deprived of all through the 14 years of the Marcos dictatorship: authentic democratic freedom and an equitable and sustained development.

Unfortunately, the country's elite and its leadership have since dedicated their attention not to fighting the common enemy, poverty, but to pursuing power and wealth in the Filipino oligarchy's favorite game—politics.

Oligarchy

Government policy since 1987 has violated the constitutional mandate that development should establish a "self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos."

What had burst into the world scene as the glorious "People's Revolution" turned into a mere restoration of the pre-Marcos social and economic oligarchy—a sad sequel to those four glorious days of February 1986.

Ironically, the 20th anniversary of the event was celebrated in a strange fashion: the promulgation of Proclamation 1017, the cancellation of all permits to celebrate the event, and the forcible dispersal with clubs and water cannons of all crowds seeking to celebrate the anniversary.

In issuing Proclamation 1017, the administration had asked the people to accept a measure of its tyranny in order to give it enough power to destroy this greater and more cruel "tyrant." Rather than pursuing that objective under the principles and along the path laid out in the 1987 Constitution, the administration chose to pursue with greater vigor the path prescribed by the World Trade Organization and the "Washington Consensus" that past leaders had followed.

The development strategy pursued by every Philippine president from the Macapagal *pere* (1962-1965) to the Macapagal *fille* (February 2002 to June 2004) has followed the conventional wisdom espoused by the Bretton Woods institutions, the industrial countries, the international banks and transnational corporations: liberalization of international trade, opening up of countries to foreign investors, privatization of public corporations, deregulation of public utilities, emphasis on export-oriented industries, priority of public sector investments in infrastructure primarily to facilitate foreign trade and to remove policies that favor Filipinos over foreigners in ownership of natural resources.

Boom and bust

Over that span of over four decades, the country's economic performance has been erratic, going through about 16 cycles of boom and bust. Even by the indicators sacred to that school of economic theory and policy, the average long-term growth rate in real GDP from 1962 to 2003 was a miserable 3.8 percent per annum.

The value of the peso went down from 50 US cents in 1950 to 33 US cents in 1962 to less than 2 US cents. The foreign debt of the country grew more than 55 times.

Macapagal *pere*, with his doctorate in economics, reversed the inward-looking policy of his predecessors from Roxas to Garcia by removing import and exchange controls and restoring the free market in foreign exchange in 1962.

The Macapagal *fille*, with her doctorate in economics and her team of neoliberals, promised to move aggressively with renewed vigor and determination to catch up with our neighbors along the same path.

Starvation despite growth

Thus, the focus continues to be on gross domestic product (GDP), an indicator that does not reflect the real incomes received by the majority of the nation's families.

GDP can be growing while large numbers of people are starving and the net worth or wealth of the nation's families is rapidly dwindling through exhaustion of natural resources and transfer of control to foreigners.

The government relies on export industries to eradicate poverty. The more complete figures of 1994 show exports contributing a measly 4 centavos out of every peso of income received by the country's families. Is it any wonder that even doctors are downgrading themselves to be able to work abroad as nurses?

Since foreign investors are not interested in going into the medium and small-scale ventures that contribute most to the incomes of the households in the medium- and small-sized communities in the country, our expectation that foreign investors will relieve our people's poverty proves to be yet another myth.

We hear much about Filipinos shooting themselves in the foot by clinging to nationalist policies that encourage our own people to undertake the primary role for domestic development. Will we not precisely do that by changing our 1987 Constitution to suit foreign investors whose response is dubious, and even if positive, will only enhance industries that will sharpen the divide between the wealthy few and the impoverished many?

Profit from resources

Regardless of personality, popularity or legitimacy, our country's leadership has constantly used a weapon that, instead of curbing the problem, has exacerbated it.

This has been to create the conditions for private business capitalizing on foreign investments to profit from our resources. The mantra is that what is good for business is good for the general welfare. If business sales are booming, exports are healthy, enterprise profits are fat, all is well with our world.

But somehow, opening up our markets and giving foreign investors free reign over our resources have not solved and will not solve poverty or environmental destruction. Our six decades of experience has shown that in the end, no one but ourselves can really pursue a sustainable development strategy that makes our people the principal beneficiaries.

In the countryside, poverty has persisted and worsened. Migrants continually troop into Manila and Cebu and Davao—the cities made prosperous by the business thrust of the '50s.

People were not considered the beneficiaries of the economy. They were the "problem."

Increasingly, the growth in their numbers was considered the main problem of the country. Therefore, the ultimate solution was to control their rapid multiplication.

Development and modernization have come to mean the substitution of large-scale, often foreign-controlled, enterprise for community as the basic unit of organization in society.

Decentralize

Our age has the advantage of technological development, making possible the achievement of all the important economic advantages of scale in nonhierarchical but decentralized and networked organizations.

It is now possible for communities—the village, the market town and the small cities—to be the primary units of organization, management, planning and resource administration, and even accounting. They can now be networked through a participatory, bottom-up decision-making that makes democracy a day-to-day process of "administration by the administered" rather than a periodic exercise of a people's prerogative to select the leaders who will be their masters.

The country does not lack professionally trained economists and other social scientists, organization and management experts. But the repeated failures of diagnosis and prescription seem to demonstrate the inadequacy of the economic, social science and managerial paradigms either to explain our condition or to prescribe an effective strategy and protocol of action.

Viable alternative

All this leaves us with but one viable alternative—genuine countryside sustainable development. A framework that gives a more appropriate and meaningful indicator of development and where the bottom line is an increase in the income and net worth of communities. This community-centered and ecosystem-based alternative demands a fundamental rethinking of development management, its instruments, practitioners, and institutions to match the realities of the Philippine condition with the opportunities and threats of globalization.

The realization of this will put a stop to environmental destruction and address poverty directly.

The key is in making communities in their ecosystem the unit of organization and management. Feeding, clothing, housing, health care, education and life enhancement of the local communities must be the primary objective in the use of local resources.

It establishes in a different community-centered accounting system a philosophy of management that honors the income and net worth of local communities to ensure that their sustainable development governs the priorities of the use of their natural endowment. Sustainable communities make a sustainable country.

It recognizes that we must return our natural resources whole and productive to our children and their children. This we cannot do if 1) we exhaust them so we can enjoy a luxurious life or 2) sell them to foreigners to pay off our foreign debts.

Accounting system

It remains true to its commitment to the community's welfare by tracking development with an accounting system that honors the integrity of the ecosystem and the preservation and enhancement of the community's net worth, the true measure of its wealth.

The government makes much of the improved exchange rates between the peso and the US dollar. The peso remains strong in the face of political turmoil? A community-centered analytical perspective would view this as a symptom of a pathological economic structure—a mark of sickness rather than of health.

The reason comes out of an analysis that understands the dynamic interaction between the metropolitan and the agrarian worlds that make up the Philippine economy.

The continuous appropriation of agrarian resources by the metropolitan economy diminishes the capacity of the rural economy to sustain the 70 percent of the population that rely on those resources. Large numbers of the young population of this sector are forced to migrate to the metropolitan centers. But the outward orientation of these centers fails to provide enough livelihood opportunities to support those migrants. They are compelled to seek jobs in those countries where the demand for high-tech persons has made the more menial tasks unattractive—the "caregiving" and housekeeping jobs.

Paradox

The combined trends produce a paradox: the peso is strong because the local economy is weak and weakening.

The metropolitan economy has become merely a subordinate link in the globalized network. The domestic economy is becoming increasingly weaker and more disintegrated. The larger agrarian sector has little purchasing power from purely local production and purely local demand is weak. The growth of overseas Filipino workers has made the remittance of their earnings a more important source of foreign earnings than net export of goods.

The demand for foreign exchange is largely for intermediate products going into exports, and the luxury consumption of the elite. That has grown more slowly than the supply of foreign exchange from overseas workers' remittances. Hence, the strength in the peso-dollar exchange rate. The weak local economy has resulted in a strong peso.

The Arroyo administration should claim credit for both cause and effect.

If it continues its policy and strategy, we can expect an escalation of events like the landslides in Quezon, Aurora and Leyte, and the "Wowowee" tragedy in the future.

In the 1987 Constitution we already have the mandate for an opposite development strategy. It calls explicitly for local governments to exercise local autonomy with the goal of making local communities economically self-reliant.

Let us therefore defend the Constitution of 1987 and honor it by observance rather than by its systematic violation and the eventual junking of the basic principles and directions around which the people wrapped their dreams after they had toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

(This paper was excerpted from a speech delivered by development economist Sixto K. Roxas at a Rotary Club convention in Davao City on March 11.)

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Pampanga town declared free of NPA

Free of NPA

The military declared victory in its counterinsurgency operations in Mexico, Pampanga.

Angeles
PAMPANGA
Mexico
Sn. Fernando
Luzon Is.
Area enlarged

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MEXICO, PAMPANGA—AN ARMY COMMANDER ON SATurday declared this town, considered as one of the strongholds of the communist movement, as free from the influence of the New People's Army.

To celebrate that status, the military and barangay leaders organized an "anticommunist" seminar-workshop for some 600 "former NPA supporters," medical missions for residents and an "anticommunist rally" a few days after the NPA on March 29 observed its 37th founding anniversary.

Lt. Col. Ricardo Visaya, commander of the 69th Infantry Battalion, said these were the culminating activities of the campaign that began in November 2005 or two months after Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan assumed leadership of the Army's 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon.

"All the villages have been cleared of rebels," Visaya said here on Saturday.

The NPA, he said, held sway in at least 19 of the town's 43 villages before the campaign started. At about the same time, the battalion transferred its headquarters from Bamban, Tarlac, to Mexico.

Instead of maintaining platoons, the military deployed smaller special operations teams complemented by paramilitary forces recruited from the villages.

Sought for reactions, the NPA command in Pampanga sneered at the military's action.

The NPA said it would "continue serving the interests of the impoverished masses by being their genuine army and by fighting the fascist military that protects the interests of the landed elite and capitalists."

Visaya said military offensives and the diminishing support of residents had forced rebels to move to western Pampanga, at the boundary of Zambales and Bataan.

Three rebel returnees spoke in the workshop but their messages centered on a single message: Withdraw support for the NPA to "end the violence" and "restore peace and democracy" in the town.

One of them, who preferred to be called Mylene, related how her husband, also a rebel returnee, was killed by rebels in 2002 for "no good reason."

"I witnessed how unjust the NPA was," she said.

Benjamin Bautista, village chief of San Jose Malino, said the military did not force him and other local officials to organize the assembly.

"We want peace to reign [here]," Bautista said.

Visaya said the military was sustaining its efforts in Mexico through the government's "Kalayaan sa Barangay" program in which President Macapagal-Arroyo allotted P5 million to every village freed from the control of the rebels.

He said P4.5 million would be allotted for infrastructure projects and the remaining P500,000 for livelihood projects. These would be supervised by the military.

Albay villagers feast on meat of dead dolphin

LEGAZPI CITY—VILLAGERS IN Barangay Tinopan, Rapu-Rapu, Albay feasted on the meat of a 70-kilogram dolphin which died after it was entrapped on Friday morning in a fishnet of Juan Demasito Araojo, a resident of Barangay Binosawan, same town.

Binosawan village chief Reynold Asuncion confirmed the report in a cell phone interview.

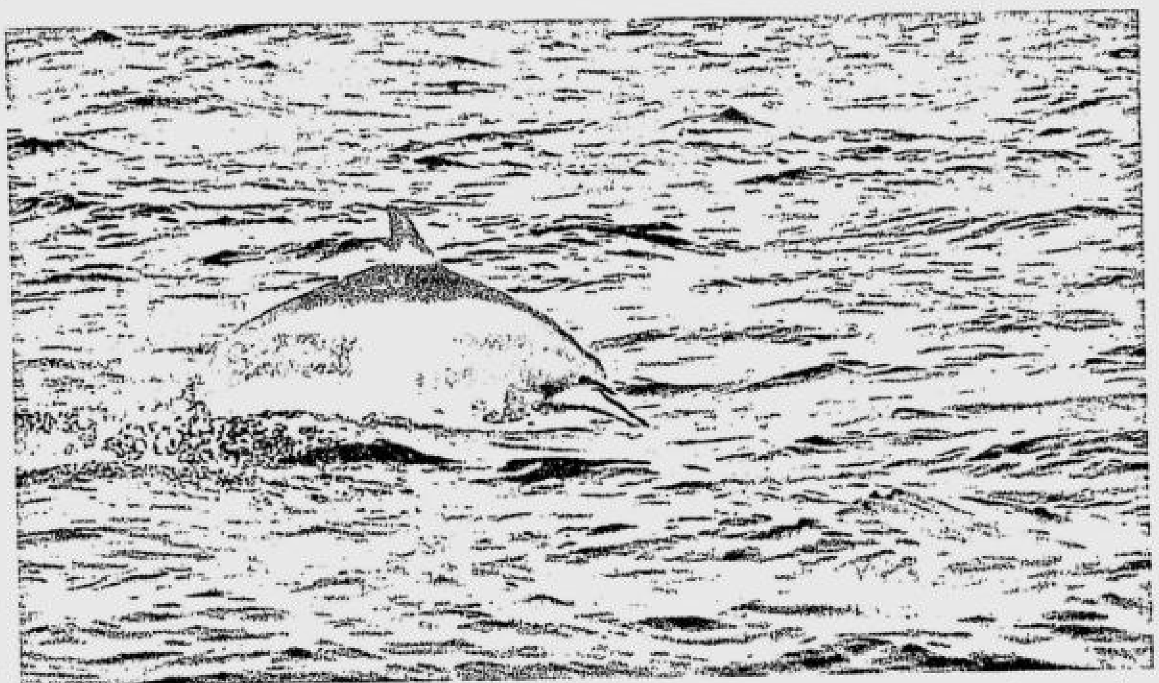
Asuncion said they buried what was left of the sea mammal and took a sample for examination by government authorities.

He said nothing happened to those who had eaten the meat of the dolphin.

Earlier on Feb. 9, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) issued its fifth study showing that fish from the Sorsogon coastal areas facing Rapu-Rapu Island is safe to eat, contrary to claims.

Officials of the Lafayette Philippines Inc., whose mining operations in Rapu-Rapu town had been alleged to have contaminated the waters of the island-municipality and some parts of Sorsogon, said BFAR's continuing tests consistently showed that there was no mercury contamination as claimed by its critics.

These groups' claims had scared off people from buying fish, destroying the livelihood of thousands of Sorsogon fishermen in the process. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



A DOLPHIN swimming in the waters of Bohol. Residents of a village in Albay had feasted on the meat of a dead dolphin after it was caught in a fishnet. A mining firm said it was proof that there was no contamination in waters off its operations site.

PDI PHOTO

Time for Cha-cha sign bid tagged too short

COTABATO CITY—THE TIME spent for the barangay assemblies in connection with the signature drive on the proposed Charter change is too short for people wanting to learn more about the process, a city councilor here said.

Wilfrido Bueno, also former director of the Commission on Elections in Central Mindanao, said the limited time deprived the people of information on the long-term effects of amending the Constitution.

Bueno also said those behind the so-called "people's initiative" appear to be not eager to tell the people what the move was all about.

He cited the failure of pro-Charter change officials to formally inform the city council of the conduct of the barangay assemblies.

"There was no correct information about it (Cha-cha petition), and if they failed to inform local institutions like the city council, an official, a lawyer like me, how else could the ordinary citizens have been better informed?" Bueno asked.

Khalid Alimudin, a former student leader in one of the colleges here, said the government could use other media, like the Internet, to make copies of the petition widely available.

"Apparently, no extra copies were made available of the petition, which was supposed to indicate proposed revisions to the Constitution," Alimudin said.

He said voters needed more time to go over the draft people's petition, which was simultaneously presented nationwide during the March 25 barangay assembly, so they can generate better informed discussions on Cha-cha. *Nash B. Maulana and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Agri execs say bugs threaten 60-80 percent of Panay farms

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—UNless the notorious Rice Black Bugs (RBB) that eat the bases of rice stems are soon controlled, about 60 to 80 percent of Panay Island's rice farms would be infested, said the Provincial Agricultural Office (PAO) of Iloilo.

Provincial Agriculturist Zafiro Palabrica said the RBB (*Scotinophara coarctata, S. lurida*) also threatens to hit Pototan town in Iloilo that produces 44 percent of the island's rice supply since the bug has been spotted in Dingle, its immediate neighbor.

Palabrica said Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban would like the government to focus on controlling RBB infestation in Iloilo since it produces 20 percent of the country's rice needs.

"Quarantine is no longer a good idea because (RBB) has reached the province of Iloilo," said Palabrica.

But he added that the areas that should remain in quarantine are the boundaries of Iloilo to Capiz, Iloilo to Antique and Iloilo to Aklan.

Palabrica said the RBB is one of the most difficult pests to manage and a mere 10 RBB bugs per hill can result in a yield loss of 15 to 23 percent.

The Philippine Information Agency here also reported that Capiz province is also "readying contingency measures against any possible invasion of the RBB."

Capiz provincial agriculturist Sylvia de la Cruz said Gov. Vicente Bermejo has alerted municipal agricultural officials about the threat and to report the presence of RBB in their areas.

The rice pest was first spotted in the first week of March in the barangays of Pinantan Elizalde and Pinantan Diel in Ajuy, Iloilo when agriculturists from the Department of Agriculture were inspecting hybrid rice and a farmer asked them about the presence of black bugs in his rice farm.

THIS species of black bug threatens rice supply on Panay Island.

PHOTO FROM IRRI AND UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

PAO records showed that more than 1,000 hectares of rice farms in Ajuy and the neighboring towns of Concepcion, Sara, and San Dionisio in northern Iloilo have been infested by the RBB, locally known as "bakuko."

"The damage in Concepcion is minimal because the rice fields planted for the third cropping is less than five hectares," said Concepcion Mayor Raul Banias in a text message.

Also called Malaysian rice black bug and Japanese rice black bug, the RBB sucks rice plant saps and prefer to infest the bases of the rice stems, causing the plant to weaken. Heavy infestation causes stunted growth, formation of white heads, half-filled or empty grains and browning of leaves or bug burn.

Palabrica said he has recalled municipal agriculturists from their regular assignments to help the infested towns.

Both Palabrica and De la Cruz said an effective way of combating RBB is to use high intensity light traps since the bugs are attracted to bright lights and can therefore be easily collected and destroyed.

Palabrica said light trapping is most effective during the full moon on April 15 or even three days before and after that date.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) said its research shows that a few days before and after a full moon, a farmer is sure to catch more RBB in the field than any other day and if boats or fishing vessels, which carry bright lights, travel on a full moon night, the RBB can be attracted to these lights and be carried from one place to another.

PhilRice said the first RBB infestation in the country was observed in Palawan where it sparked an outbreak in 1982, damaging some 4,500 hectares of rice lands. After a decade, the RBB invaded several areas in Mindanao including Zamboanga City, Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat. In 1998, it was spotted in Negros Occidental and Siquijor.

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Colgate's P1 million shopping spree promo

Colgate Fresh Confidence with Cooling Crystals' "P1 Million Makeover Shopping Spree" promo launch took Glorietta Activity Center by storm—with no less than R&B prince Jay-R and teen actress Shaina Magdayao giving extremely cool and refreshing performances.

The one-of-a-kind promo gives P100,000 each in Ayala Malls Electronic Gift Certificates or Ayala Malls eGCs to 10 lucky winners who will spend it all in an afternoon shopping spree. The P100,000 Ayala Malls eGC prize can be used in eGC-affiliated establishments within Ayala Malls.

It's so easy to join–shoppers need only to write their name, address, contact number and signature on a carton of Colgate Fresh Confidence with Cooling Crystals' two variants—Spicy Fresh and Peppermint Ice. They can also enclose three Colgate Fresh Confidence with Cooling Crystals sachets in an envelope and drop their entries in drop boxes at all LBC branches nationwide.

Introduced last September 2005, Colgate Fresh Confidence with Cooling Crystals is the only toothpaste with the breakthrough breath strips called Cooling Crystals. When brushing, these Cooling Crystals instantly dissolve in the mouth, which is specially formulated and patented to give a burst of breath freshening power.

There will be two winners each from Metro Manila, North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The provincial winners will be flown in or driven to Metro Manila, with free hotel accommodations and travel expenses courtesy of Colgate-Palmolive. Jay-R and Shaina will then join the 10 winners for an afternoon of shopping at Glorietta on May 13, 2006.

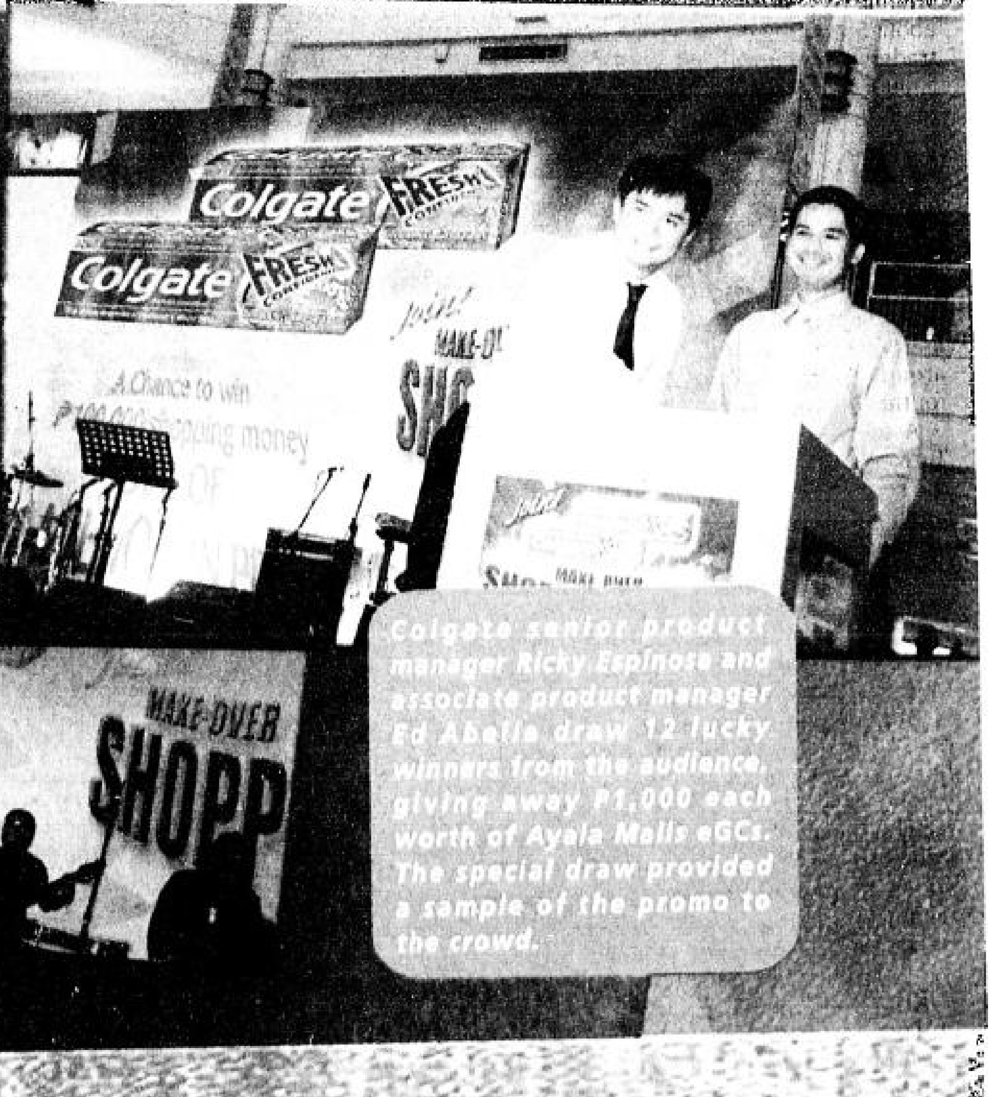
Consumers can still join as the deadline for the submission of entries is extended to April 17, 2006.

Watch out for the draw date on April 21, 2006 as 10 winners will get a once-in-a-lifetime chance to shop with the stars.

Jay-R sings the Colgate Fresh Confidence with Cooling Crystals jingle while Shaina dances to the upbeat tune.

Jay-R, Maricel, Shaina and Evan Santos warmly greet the crowd during the grand kickoff launch at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Bands Cueshe and Milk & Money rock the house down, to the delight of the crowd.



Colgate senior product manager Ricky Espinosa and associate product manager Ed Abella draw 12 lucky winners from the audience, giving away P1,000 each worth of Ayala Malls eGCs. The special draw provided a sample of the promo to the crowd.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Business picks up in new fish port

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Datu Montawal, Maguindanao

HER APPEARANCE IS A FAR cry from the popular view of a fish vendor. She does not smell of fish but of sweet perfume that is popular among younger women.

But her composed but alert expression suggests that she is all business.

Nida Turo, 32, has become one of the most well-known fish suppliers in Tunggol, a small barangay in the newly created municipality of Datu Montawal in Maguindanao. The place has become a popular source of freshwater fish among traders from the nearby cities of Kidapawan, Tacurong and Midsayap.

On the concrete boat landing, amid the chaos of porters carrying fish boxes, buyers checking fish stocks, and suppliers haggling over prices, Turo is silently counting and recounting her supply.

"If you miss the count of a single *tuhog* (fish tied in a knot), you may lose a day's net profit. You have to be very careful, since some of the price is determined by the size of the fish," she said.

At the Tunggol port, a P1.3-million structure constructed by the US Agency for International Development's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, Turo is one of the most sought-after fish suppliers. Her fresh stocks come all the way from the Liguasan Marsh, one of Asia's largest wetlands and rich source of a variety of freshwater fish species.

"I have to strive hard since I'm currently feeding more than a dozen people," said Turo, who lost her husband after a long struggle with hypertension.

Turo does not have children, but she has 10 siblings and their children who depend on her for their daily needs. Hers is a story common among some single women who, because of their superior business and trading skills, have assumed responsibility in supporting their closely-knit families.

"When my husband died, I decided to keep myself busy in just about any activity to overcome my depression. It was at that time I decided to take over my husband's business in fish trading," she said.

Growing business

She did not simply take over her husband's business. With an investment of P5,000, she bought more fishnets, set larger fish traps, and hired more people to expand the enterprise.

In less than a few months, Turo began earning a daily gross income of almost P3,000, almost triple her late husband's average.

She now sells more than a dozen varieties of fish, with live catfish being the most popular.

"I cannot attribute all of my increased earnings to my decision to expand the business. A major factor is also the influx of buyers getting more interested in Tunggol after the completion of this boat landing," said Turo, speaking of the facility that was constructed about two years ago.

The facts seem to warrant this conclusion. After the landing area was completed, the number of boats docking in Tunggol has increased by about 30 percent. Likewise, the volume of fish landed at the facility rose by about 50 percent, attracting more buyers and traders from nearby cities and municipalities.

Junaida Singgon, a fish buyer from Carmen town in North Cotabato, confirms this. During her almost 10 years in the business, she has moved from one town to another to look for a constant supply of freshwater fish.

First buyer

"When this boat landing was completed, I was one of the first buyers to use this facility, and there were only a few of us here. Today, around 25 buyers visit the place and compete for the best catch," she said.

A trip to Tunggol means a long day for Turo, whose routine starts with supervising the segregation of the day's catch by variety, packing the fish in wooden boxes, and bringing them to the port in an outrigger boat.

"The boat ride from the Liguasan Marsh takes about two hours, so we have to start packing before the break of dawn," she said. Her day usually ends at about 5 p.m., when the last batch of buyers arrives.

"You can just imagine the kind of conditions we had to endure before the construction of the boat landing," Turo said.

Before, the place was just a clearing where boats docked along the muddy riverbank. Fish suppliers and buyers transacted business under the scorching heat of the sun, hauling their wares through the mud. If it rained, buyers and sellers alike got soaked.

High-impact project

"Look at me now! I can already afford to put a little makeup on my face and sit comfortably under a shed while waiting for the buyers. I don't have to smell of sun-dried fish," she said.

Doing business while being protected from the sun and the rain are just some of the benefits people attribute to the facility.

"The boat landing is among our high-impact projects designed to boost rural productivity, lower transport costs, and connect once inaccessible hinterland communities to market centers," explained Ronaldo Ypil, GEM regional manager.

The infrastructure, he said, did not only benefit the more than 4,400 residents of Datu Montawal, but also allowed the municipal government to generate revenue from the increased volume of transport and trade.

It has also become the barangay's convergence point for goods and passengers arriving from nearby sitios and clusters of fishing communities.

While Turo tries to meet the buyers' demands for better quality of fish, she is also setting her sights on the possibility of reducing the costs she pays for her products. Faced with increasing transport costs, she plans to embark on a new venture.

"I will build my own boat. Not big, but just enough for my needs," she declared.

SINGGON, a fish buyer from Carmen municipality in North Cotabato, checks the quality of fish arriving at the Tunggol Boat Landing, in Datu Montawal, Maguindanao. JEFFREY M. TUPAS

Messages

My warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Philippine Pediatric Society as you hold your 43rd Annual Convention.

I laud your continued pursuit of excellence in the field of pediatric medicine. I am particularly heartened by your active involvement in promoting optimal child health in our country even as you live up to your social responsibilities to the nation.

I expect this forum to strengthen your ties as an organization of pediatricians and allied health professionals committed to an environment conducive to child survival, development, safety and protection. May you continue to serve as a valuable partner of Filipino parents in ensuring the health of their children.

I trust that you are one with the government in pushing our health agenda. Together, we shall beat the odds and achieve a healthier and more progressive future for all Filipinos.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Pediatric Society Inc. on the occasion of their 43rd Annual Convention entitled "Optimizing Pediatric Health Care Utilizing Limited Resources".

May the body of knowledge gathered in this convention translate into improvement of the daily practice of Pediatrics in order to solve the many concerns in Pediatric Care.

I commend your society for its continuing mission of providing quality health services and promoting public health programs that are essential in preserving the health and welfare of our people.

The Department of Health extends its support and wishes to you all success in your undertakings.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc.
Secretary of Health

With genuine sentiments of fellowship, we, the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, heartily convey best wishes to you the officers and members of the Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc. on the observance of the PPS 43rd Annual Convention.

This auspicious forum anchored on the theme "Optimizing Pediatric Health Care Utilizing Limited Resources," should gladden Pediatricians for its promise of a most stimulating scientific session. The significant strides that the PPS pursues to make child care not only more efficacious but also cost effective have truly made a difference in pediatric healthcare. Plus your noble concern in assembling an impressive array of speakers to help broaden the horizons of child healthcare specialists should make this convention a glittering success.

Congratulations! Mabuhay and Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.

MODESTO O. LLAMAS, MD
President
Philippine Medical Association

On the 43rd Annual Convention of the Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc., I heartily congratulate one of the most vibrant organizations of physicians in the country. This year's theme "Optimizing Pediatric Health Care Utilizing Limited Resources" is definitely relevant to our times.

The scientific program is very comprehensive and interesting. On April 2 to 5, 2006 everyone will troop to PICC to be enlightened and updated. The learnings that will be gained will translate into better child care.

The PICC will once again be transformed into an activity center of pediatricians, practitioners, nurses, midwives and all interested in health and care of our children. All will be welcome to participate in this worthwhile annual activity.

FE DEL MUNDO, MD, MA
Honorary President, PPS, Inc.

It is with great honor and pleasure that I welcome you all to the 43rd Annual Convention of the Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc. with the theme "Optimizing Pediatric Health Care Utilizing Limited Resources" on April 2-5, 2006 at the Philippine International Convention Center. Your attendance to this pediatric forum is a reaffirmation of your dedication and commitment to improve child health and well being, which is truly admirable.

The organizing committee chaired by Dr. Melinda Atienza and co-chaired by Drs. Ma. Lourdes U. Peralta and Emilio A. Hernandez Jr. has prepared a comprehensive program which will address the challenges we frequently meet in pediatric practice with all the prevailing constraints and limitations in terms of diagnostic tools and budgets, as we exert our best efforts to deliver optimum health care. Rather than bemoan our plight, we need to make use of innovative and cost-effective ways to enable the families and their children to confront various opportunities & challenges and achieve our goal of promoting child health and wellbeing and improve child survival. Eminent international, regional and local speakers have been invited to share with us their knowledge and expertise.

Once again, welcome and we look forward to a most interesting, challenging, intellectually rewarding and enjoyable convention. Let us continue to work in unity, solidarity and teamwork to achieve our ultimate goal: healthy children in a healthy world — our future.

Thank you and MABUHAY!

ESTRELLA B. PAJE-VILLAR, MD
President
Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.

The Filipino pediatrician is one with the nation in its quest for peace, progress and prosperity. He remains in tune with the socio-economic travails of our fellowmen and has remained a silent yet diligent agent of change for the better. Cognizant of his challenging plight and how he has managed to provide optimum care despite limitations in finances and resources, the 43rd Annual Convention of the Philippine Pediatric Society has decided to focus on a timely yet relevant topic, "Optimizing Pediatric Health Care Utilizing Limited Resources".

This convention is both a tribute and a treat to the brave and daring Filipino pediatrician, who despite the odds continue to take the cudgels of health for the future of country — the Filipino Child. This convention is a celebration of hope for better days to come as the Filipino pediatrician struggles to make both ends meet for the sake of his most important client — the Filipino child. This convention is an affirmation of faith in the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the Filipino pediatrician as he gives the best while spending the least. And finally let this convention be a testament of the unity, solidarity and teamwork of the Philippine Pediatric Society as it joins the nation in confronting the challenges our nation must face and ultimately surpass.

Well-respected local and international figures have been invited to shed light on various topics intended to update and inform the Filipino pediatrician. With his continuing medical education in mind, a formidable list of resource persons tackling topics from pragmatic viewpoints and real time perspectives have been assembled to provide the Filipino pediatrician with the knowledge he needs in his noble profession of healing and nurturing Filipino children.

So come Convention Day, be there, be present and be felt. Only when you go home better empowered and enlightened can we truly declare the 43rd Annual Convention of the Philippine Pediatric Society an authentic success.

MELINDA MILLARES-ATIENZA, MD
Over All Chairperson
43rd Annual Convention

The Philippine Pediatric Society

PHILIPPINE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY 1947

43rd Annual Convention

April 2-5, 2006 Philippine International Convention Center

"Optimizing Pediatric Health Care Utilizing Limited Resources"

Program

April 3, 2006 Monday 8:00–11:00AM
8:00AM REGISTRATION
8:20AM - 9:00AM Opening Ceremonies
9:00AM - 9:40AM Plenary 1 The Milk Code 25 years later, Quo Vadis?
By Usec. Alexander de las Alas A. Padilla, LLB
Chair Mary N. Chua, MD
9:40AM - 10:20AM Plenary 2 Standards of Newborn Care for Developing Countries
By Emilio A. Hernandez, Jr. MD
Chair Amelia R. Fernandez, MD
10:20AM - 11:00AM Plenary 3 Avian Flu Virus: Are we near the next pandemic?
By Luningning P. Elio-Villa, MD
Chair Xerxes R. Navarro, MD

April 3, 2006 Monday 2:00–4:00PM
Simultaneous Symposia
SS1 – Social Pediatrics MR 2 & 3, PICC
2:00-2:30PM Broadcast Media and Pediatric Health Care
Speaker Ms. Karen Davila
2:30-3:00PM DOH Programs for Environmental Health, FYI
Speaker Engr. Joselito Riego de Dios
3:00-3:30PM Charity Foundations and Pediatric Health Care
Speaker Mr. Arnold A. Clavio
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Genesis C. Rivera, MD
Co-Chair Milagros S. Bautista, MD
SS2 – Updates on Childhood Immunization MR 11, PICC
2:00-2:30PM 2006 PIDSP Recommendations on Immunization
Speaker Cynthia A. Aguirre, MD
2:30-3:00PM 2006 AAP Recommendations on Immunization
Speaker Richard F. Jacobs, MD
3:00-3:30PM New Vaccines
Speaker Lourdes G. Gozali, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Anna Lisa O. Lim, MD
Co-Chair Maronel Pagcaliwangan, MD
SS3 – Neonatology/Pediatric Surgery MR 12, PICC
2:00-2:30PM Breastfeeding Strategies for Sick Infants
Speaker Ma. Asuncion A. Silvestre, MD
2:30-3:00PM The Limits of Conservative Management in Necrotizing Enterocolitis
Speaker Ma. Celine Isabel A. Villegas, MD
3:00-3:30PM Newborn Resuscitation Using Limited Resources
Speaker Wilfredo R. Santos, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Dolores B. Sy, MD
Co-Chair Joseph Aldrio G. Gaspar, MD
SS4 – Hematology/Oncology MR 10, PICC
2:00-2:30PM Anemia not responsive to Hematinics
Speaker Eufrosina A. Malendres, MD
2:30-3:00PM When to Suspect Bleeding Disorders in Children
Speaker Ernesto R. Delos Reyes, MD
3:00-3:30PM Cancer in Children
Speaker Ma. Victoria Macarnog-Abesamis, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Mary N. Chua, MD
Co-Chair Katherine Ruby C. Lagunilla, MD
SS5 – Endocrinology/Genetics MR 6, PICC
2:00-2:30PM Newborn Screening: What Every Doctor Should Know
Speaker Sylvia C. Estrada, MD
2:30-3:00PM Childhood Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome
Speaker Sioksoan Chan Cua, MD
3:00-3:30PM Bones that Break, Bones that Bend: A Review of Metabolic Bone Diseases in Children
Speaker Teresa Patricia M. Borromeo, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Lorna R. Abad, MD
Co-Chair Elma G. Cabrera, MD
SS6 – Ambulatory Pediatrics MR 4, PICC
2:00-2:30PM Preventive Pediatrics: From 2004 to 2006, What are the Updates?
Speaker Loida T. Villanueva, MD
2:30-3:00PM Pediatric Professional Fees in the EVAT Era
Speaker Miguel F. Caidran, MD
3:00-3:30PM What's new in Pediatric Dentistry?
Speaker Georgina R. Remulla, DDS
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Ramon L. Arcadio, MD
Co-Chair Amor M. Espinosa
SS7 – Medical Informatics Delegates' Lounge, PICC
2:00-4:00PM Video Editing
Speaker Jacinto Blas V. Mantaring III, MD
Vector Graphics
Speaker Rene H. Francisco, MD
Moderator Judith Fatima E. Garcia, MD
Facilitators Bibiano D. Reyes Jr., MD
Rosauro M. Gonzales, MD
Edilberto B. Garcia Jr., MD
Gyneth Lourdes G. Bibera, MD
SS8 – Nephrology MR 5, PICC
2:00-2:45PM Obesity and Hypertension
Speaker Michael T. Manalaysay, MD
2:45-3:30PM The Newborn Kidney: Handle with Care
Speaker Victor S. Doctor, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Carmelo A. Alfiler, MD
Co-Chair Nieves S. Macaranas, MD
4:00-5:00PM 10th Interhospital Research Paper Contest MR 6, PICC

April 4, 2006 Tuesday 8:00-11:00AM
8:00AM REGISTRATION
8:20AM - 9:00AM Plenary 4 Global Tuberculosis: Latent Tuberculosis Infection in Children, The Shadow of the Past and the Key to the Future
By Richard F. Jacobs, MD (USA)
Chair Estrella B. Paje-Villar, MD
9:00AM - 9:40AM Plenary 5 Allergies in Asthma and Atopic Dermatitis – Facts And Fallacies
By Madeleine W. Sumpaico, MD
Chair Hermogenes D. Purugganan, MD
9:40AM - 10:20AM Plenary 6 Family Centered Community Based Programs Improve Child Survival
By Vera Frances "Fan" Tait, MD (USA)
Chair Felicitas R. Agiala, MD
10:20AM-11:00AM Plenary 7 Overview of Pediatric Epilepsy
By Romaine Schubert, MD (USA)
Chair Carmelita B. Cuyugan, MD
4:00PM - 5:00PM PPS Inter-hospital Quiz Contest MR 4, PICC

April 5, 2006 Wednesday 8:00–11:00AM
8:00AM REGISTRATION
9:00AM - 9:40AM Plenary 8 Pneumonias in Developing Countries
By Alfred Tam, MBBS, FRCP (Hong Kong SAR of China)
Moderator Zenaida L. Antonio, MD
9:40AM - 10:20AM Plenary 9 What is Virginity? The Philippine consensus on the interpretation of medical findings in child sexual abuse
By Bernadette J. Madrid, MD
Chair Luis M. Mabilangan, MD
10:20AM - 11:00AM Plenary 10 The Emergency Room is NOT an OPD
By Kee Chong Ng, MD (Singapore)
Chair Wilberto L. Lopez, MD
11:00AM - 11:40AM Plenary 11 FUO Work-up Utilizing Limited Resources
By Rolando S. Songco, MD
Chair Esperanza F. Rivera, MD

April 5, 2006 Wednesday 2:00–4:00PM
Simultaneous Symposia
SS9 – Pulmonology/Critical Care Medicine MR 2 & 3, PICC
2:00-2:30PM The Many Facets Of Airway Hyperresponsiveness
Speaker Lydia K. Chang, MD
2:30-3:00PM Clinical Application of Airway Inflammatory Markers
Speaker Alfred Y. Tam, MBBS, FRCP
3:00-3:30PM Special Needs of Critically Ill Children
Speaker Rodolfo C. Ng, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Olivia Cheng-Go, MD
Co-Chair Evelyn L. Siasu, MD
SS10 – Legal Medicine/Bioethics MR 10, PICC
2:00-2:30PM Off Label Drug Prescriptions
Speaker Cecilia Maramba-Lazarte, MD
2:30-3:00PM SMS/ Phone Consultation: Should we or Shouldn't we?
Speaker Antonio Alejandro D. Rebosa, MD, LLB
3:00-3:30PM Physician Drug Dispensing: Risky Business
Speaker Eduardo P. Banzon, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Esperanza F. Rivera, MD
Co-Chair Benito P. Atienza, MD
SS11 – Rheumatology/ Cardiology MR 6, PICC
2:00-2:30PM Recognition of Common Rheumatic Diseases
Speaker Christine B. Bernal, MD
2:30-3:00PM Complementary/Alternative Medicine: Arthritis Pain Management Using Acupressure (Lecture and Short Demo)
Speaker Alfonso T. Lagaya, MD
3:00-3:30PM Kawasaki Disease
Speaker Charles C. Cueso, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Rhodora G. De Leon, MD
Co-Chair Ma. Stella Y. delos Santos, MD
SS12 – Gastroenterology MR 5, PICC
2:00-2:30PM Guide to the Use of the New International Reference Standards (IRS)
Speaker Mary Jean Villareal-Guno, MD
2:30-3:00PM Updates in the Management of Diarrhea
Speaker Juliet Sio-Aguilar, MD
3:00-3:30PM Feeding Strategies for Infants and the Young Child
Speaker Jossie M. Rogacion, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Randy P. Urtula, MD
Co-Chair Portia D. Monreal, MD
SS13 – Evidence Based Guidelines in Pediatric Diseases MR 11, PICC
2:00-2:30PM CPGs on Childhood Tuberculosis: Diagnosis and Treatment
Speaker Salvacion R. Gatchalian, MD
2:30-3:00PM Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Inguinal Hernias in Children
Speaker Dexter S. Aison, MD
3:00-3:30PM Evidence-Based Guidelines on DF/DHF: A Status Report
Speaker Jaime A. Santos, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Margaret Lu-Fong, MD
Co-Chair Doda R. Espineda, MD
SS14 - Allergology/Dermatology Banquet Hall, PICC
2:00-2:30PM Allergic Emergency Preparedness
Speaker Ruby N. Foronda, MD
2:30-3:00PM Skin Testing for Drugs, Medical Evidence For It
Speaker Remedios C. Ong, MD
Reactor Teresita R. Sanchez, MD, LLB
3:00-3:30PM Updates in Pediatric Dermatology
Speaker Roberta C. Romero, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Hiyasmin M. Lim, MD
Co-Chair Suzette R. Elegado, MD
SS15 – Neurology/ Developmental Pediatrics MR 12, PICC
2:00-2:40PM Developmental Delay: Recognition, Assessment, and Management
Speaker Rhandy Pu Bonito, MD
2:40-3:00PM Migraine and Headaches in Children
Speaker Teresita R. Rabanal, MD
3:00-3:30PM Overview of New Anticonvulsants
Speaker Romaine Schubert, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Rosalina G. de Sagun, MD
Co-Chair Joselyn A. Eusebio, MD
SS16 – Otorhinolaryngology & Ophthalmology MR 14, PICC
2:00-2:30PM 2006 Philippine CPGs on Acute Otitis Media and Otitis Media with Effusion
Speaker Cecilia Gretchen N. Locsin, MD
2:30-3:00PM Rhinitis and Rhinosinusitis
Speaker Rutaeve M. Caro, MD
3:00-3:30PM Visual Acuity Assessment in Infants and Children
Speaker Catherine Cui Macarineg, MD
3:30-4:00PM OPEN FORUM
Chair Jocelyn J. Yambao-Franco, MD
Co-Chair Roberto A. Espos, Jr. MD
4:00-5:00 PM Closing Ceremonies MR 2 & 3 PICC

Plenary Speakers

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(PHILIPPINES)
RICHARD F. JACOBS, MD
(USA)
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ROMAINE SCHUBERT, MD
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HOLY WEEK DESTINATION

If you're summering up in northern Luzon, you might want to check out the Transfiguration Chapel, a place of tranquility in the Dariok Hills, Balintocatoc, Santigao City in Isabela. It's a place designed for harried lowlanders to reflect and meditate on God and nature. Or, just a place to be.

VILLAMOR VISAYA JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Noli tells ejected NorthRail families: Give gov't more time

CITY OF MALOLOS—VICE PRESident Noli de Castro on Thursday asked residents, who were relocated to give way to the NorthRail project here, to give the government more time to address their needs.

De Castro, the concurrent chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), met with former residents of Barangay Bangkal who complained that the government's promises of electricity, potable water, comfortable housing and other basic services in their relocation area in Northville 8 were not delivered.

De Castro assured residents in the 15-hectare Northville 8 that he would ask the National Housing Authority (NHA), city officials and the developer, Goldenville Development Corp., to hasten the electrification of the community.

He said power would be available in the area in May.

"We are not Superman so please give us a little more time to address your needs. Please help us, let us help each other," De Castro told the residents.

Resident Erlinda Soriano said many of the 3,000 families in Northville 8 were planning to abandon their housing units because of the condition of the relocation site and the lack of livelihood opportunities there.

The residents, who were formerly living along the Philippine National Railway track in the city, moved to Northville 8 in November and December last year.

Soriano said they wrote De Castro to inform him of the residents' actual conditions at the relocation site.

She said many residents also complained that their water sources were near where septic tanks were built.

In an earlier interview, Federico Laxa, NHA general manager, said water samples from 60 of the 106 deep wells built in the relocation site have passed the Department of Health's standards.

Laxa said the remaining 46 deep wells were being tested.

An assessment done by the Department of Education also showed that a school building with at least nine classrooms is needed in the area to accommodate children of residents.

Mayor Danilo Domingo said the city government and local business groups have committed to fund the construction of four classrooms in the community. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gov says ₱200-M landslide donation intact

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—Gov. Rosette Lerias has released an accounting of at least P200 million in donations so far received for the victims of the Guinsaugon landslides amid questions on where these went.

The governor, in a conference here Friday commemorating the 40th day of the Feb. 17 landslides, said three entities received a total of P180 million.

The Philippine National Red Cross got P160 million; the Southern Leyte Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC), about P18 million; and the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council (MDCC), P4 million.

The total amount did not include donations received by the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and the national government, through President Macapagal-Arroyo, that reached about P15 million, provincial officials here said.

Lerias, St. Bernard Mayor Maria Lim and Red Cross officials made the public accounting during the joint PDCC and MDCC meeting held at the lobby of the St. Bernard municipal hall on Friday.

It was attended by some Guinsaugon survivors and evacuees from five endangered villages, many of whom wanted to know where the donations went.

Lerias said she resented the baseless accusation that she kept some of the donations.

"We have been very transparent with our dealings. You can look into the records of the donations, which are all receipted," the governor said.

Lerias also said not all donations would go to Guinsaugon because there are other areas surrounding Guinsaugon that have to be cleared of residents because they are also at risk from landslides.

Of the donations that went to the Red Cross, P11 million came from local individual sources; P17.7 million from local companies or institutions; and P129.7 million from foreign corporations or institutions.

The Guinsaugon victims are, meanwhile, already assured of relocation at a 5.7-hectare lot in Barangay Magbagakay, about 2 km south of the town proper of St. Bernard.

The lot was acquired for P3 million from the cash donations that the municipal government received, according to Lim.

Residents of three of five other endangered villages—Hinabian, Magatas and Sugangon—which were also evacuated, would be relocated in Barangay Catmon, 4 km north of Guinsaugon.

'Punks 11' sue cops for rights violation

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE 11 backpackers whom police said were among the suspected communist rebels who raided an Army detachment in Mankayan town in February filed charges against the police for allegedly violating their rights when they were arrested without warrants.

The group, called "Punks 11" by human rights lawyers here, filed the complaint on Friday before the Benguet prosecutor's office.

They said the six policemen who arrested them on Feb. 14 while they were on their way to Sagada, Mt. Province failed to show them arrest warrants.

The lawyers of the backpackers said the policemen were accused of violating the suspects' rights under Republic Act No. 7438, the law defining the rights of persons arrested, detained or taken under custodial investigation.

The suspects earlier complained that policemen beat them up after their arrest but Benguet police officials belied the claim.

Named in the complaint were Supt. Brent Madjaco, Senior Insp. Joseph Paulo Bayongasan, SPO1 Alyson Kalang-ad, PO2 Jonathan Pucya, PO2 Wendell Baglao and PO2 James Ayan Jr.

Senior Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, Benguet police director, said they believed that the suspects were among the group of New People's Army rebels who raided the Mankayan detachment.

"There is nothing to say because the case is already in court. But we stand by [our] belief that they were the ones who raided the detachment," Bumanglag said in a telephone interview.

In a preliminary hearing on Thursday at the regional trial court here, police said they stopped the dump truck, where the 11 backpackers hitched a ride, in a checkpoint in Buguias town.

Lawyer Randy Kinaud, one of the backpackers' lawyers, said the police told the backpackers that they had the right to remain silent and the right to be represented by a lawyer.

But Kinaud said the police violated the law when they questioned the backpackers without the presence of their lawyers.

Last week, lawyer Pablito Sanidad of the Free Legal Assistance Group and officials of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance asked Judge Benigno Galacgac to dismiss the robbery with homicide charges filed against the suspects.

The charges were related to the death of two soldiers and a militiaman and the seizure of at least 23 firearms during the raid. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Hundreds mourn slain student leader

IROSIN, SORSOGON—RAIN failed to stop hundreds of relatives, friends and supporters of slain student leader Cris Hugo, who packed the St. Michael the Archangel Church to pay respects to the fallen leader on Friday afternoon.

Banner-bearing students and members of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity massed outside the church as the necrological services went underway.

Vencer Crisostomo, national chair of the militant League of Filipino Students (LFS), said Hugo was the first youth and student leader slain since the government launched a crackdown against militant leaders in the country.

Hugo was killed by a lone assailant in the evening of March 19 in Albay district.

Police had not identified his killer yet.

In her eulogy, Marie Espeleta, Cris' former teacher in elementary, said the bullets that stopped Cris would never be able to stop his dreams and visions.

"Why are there still killings even after Presidential Proclamation 1017 had been lifted?" she asked referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a national state of emergency.

Msgr. Francisco Monje, parish priest of Sorsogon City, who was among the six priests that officiated the requiem Mass, urged the people to continue with the fight for justice and for what is right.

"But fight with love in your heart," he said.

Crisostomo said demonstrations and rallies will continue nationwide to protest Cris' death.

Hundreds of residents of this town lined in the streets as the hearse carrying Cris proceeded to the cemetery under a gloomy sky.

Maritess Lopez, spokesperson of the Justice for Cris Movement, decried the declaration of Ms Arroyo of military officers, like Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, as heroes despite their dismal human rights record while declaring activists demanding truth and justice as enemies of the state.

Meanwhile, Dean Ofelia Vega, of the Bicol University College of Arts and Letters, told the INQUIRER that the school had already made an appeal to Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez for help for the expeditious resolution of the case.

A letter making the appeal was also signed by BU President Susana Cabredo.

"Those who killed you are animals," said Cris' mother as she sobbed while Cris' remains were being buried. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

FRIENDS, relatives and family gather at the St. Michael the Archangel Church in Irosin, Sorsogon to bury slain student leader Cris Hugo.

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

MILF says it's wary of pledges of int'l aid support

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has welcomed international donors' pledges of support for war-torn Mindanao, but said it would adopt a very cautious approach to it.

Muhammad Ameen, head of secretariat of the MILF central committee, said the international donors' pledges could be "double-edged and could eventually destroy the organization (MILF)."

He said that while the MILF welcomes international support for the peace process, through aid packages to conflict-affected areas, it opposes any effort by the government, donor countries or nongovernment organizations to use these to undermine support for the MILF.

"We do not want this money to be used against us by normalizing the situation without really solving the Bangsamoro problem," he said in a statement, adding that the MILF does not want to suffer the fate of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

He said the MNLF had a good vision for the Bangsamoro people but failed to institute effective measures to sustain the gains of their struggle.

On Friday, international donors pledged to increase assistance to support the government's efforts to bring peace to Mindanao, long troubled by a Moro insurgency.

"The President told us about the progress being made on the Mindanao peace process. She emphasized the importance of an early peace dividend on growth and greater inclusion," World Bank country director Joachim von Amsberg told reporters in Tagaytay City following the Mindanao development forum attended by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The Mindanao Working Group subsequently considered ways to support the government's peace and development initiatives, especially for conflict-prone areas that have thus far been neglected," said Amsberg who recently visited Mindanao to check on development projects.

But Ameen said the MILF leadership has learned from the mistakes made by the government and the MNLF.

The government and the MNLF, then led by Nur Misuari, signed a peace deal in 1996 aimed at ending the Moro rebellion.

Ameen said the money was taken in the name of the Bangsamoro people and the MNLF as recipient, but the money just went to the pockets of government leaders, NGOs, and few MNLF commanders.

He said in the end, Misuari was made the scapegoat, accused of corruption and incompetence in governance, which largely was not true.

Ameen also clarified that the MILF has not made an official appeal to the international community for aid and won't do so until the peace panels of the government and MILF has listed guidelines on how the money would be spent. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

World looks back on Pope John Paul the Great

Catholics will have to wait for John Paul's sainthood

VATICAN CITY—THE LATE POPE JOHN Paul II may be a near certainty to join the panoply of Christian saints, idolized as he was by millions during his lifetime, but the message from those closest to the cause for his canonization is that it won't happen anytime soon.

"The road is long, there's still a lot of work to do," said Monsignor Slowomir Oder, the 46-year-old Polish priest overseeing the investigation of miracles attributed to the late pope.

Proof of one miracle attributed to John Paul II is required before he can be beatified, the first step to sainthood. A second miracle attributed to his intercession with God would be necessary for full sainthood.

John Paul II died April 2 last year, reportedly telling those on his deathbed before slipping into a coma, "Let me go to the Lord."

During his massive funeral a week later, banners appeared in the crowd demanding that the pope be made a "saint now."

Just a month after that, the new Pope Benedict XVI dispensed with the normal five-year waiting period which traditionally must pass before a process of beatification can even begin. The Diocese of Rome promptly announced the cause of beatification of John Paul II on June 28.

Oder has since undertaken an investigation into the life and virtue of the late pope, and formally interviewed many of the people who knew him, including former Polish president Lech Walesa.

Poles are especially proud of "their" pope, and many hope that Benedict could announce his predecessor's beatification when he travels to the country in late May.

It is however France, a secular country, which could yet provide proof of the miracle needed for the Polish pope to be beatified.

At a location kept secret by Church authorities, Oder presided over a hearing earlier this month into a French nun's claims that she was miraculously healed of Parkinson's disease when she prayed to the late pope.

The identity of the nun, who claimed her cure took place last October, has not been made public.

Oder told Italy's state broadcaster RAI this week that another alleged miracle, this time the healing of a man suffering from an incurable liver disease in the United States, would also be investigated.

His task is made considerably easier because many of those who knew the pope throughout his life are still alive.

However, it has not all been plain sailing. In December, 11 dissident Catholic theologians said in a letter to the Vatican that they opposed sainthood, and insisted that the "negative" effects of John Paul II's pontificate be investigated.

In particular they cited his rigidly conservative stand on issues such as contraception, the role of women and sexual abuse scandals within the Church.

Once the inquiry by the Rome diocese is completed, the report will be passed to the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, which sooner or later is likely to propose that Benedict recognize his predecessor's "heroic virtues" and proclaim him "blessed" at a beatification ceremony.

John Paul II is himself known as the greatest "saint maker" in the history of the Catholic Church. He created more saints — 482 — in the more than 26 years of his pontificate than all the other popes put together.

AFP

From page A1

For more than half the world's one billion Catholics, he was the only pope they had ever known.

This weekend Rome will collectively cast its mind back to the extraordinary events of last year, when some three million people flocked to Rome to pay their respects to the late pope.

Rome's streets were filled by a tide of humanity as mourners waited their turn to tearfully file past his body as it lay in state in St. Peter's basilica.

Thousands slept overnight in the Via della Conciliazione, the broad avenue which leads to the Vatican, to get a vantage point at his funeral. Some 300,000 attended the requiem Mass, celebrated by the man who succeeded him, the dean of the College of Cardinals Joseph Ratzinger.

"SPOKESMAN OF THE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY" was stilled a year ago today but his repute as the the dominant moral voice of the age, as victor over communism, and architect of Christian reconciliation with Jews, is undiminished.

Commemoration rites

This weekend, ceremonies are being held across the world to mark the anniversary of the death of John Paul II, while up to 100,000 pilgrims are expected to attend a special prayer vigil led by his successor Benedict XVI at the Vatican.

The leader of the Roman Catholic Church will recite the rosary from his window overlooking St. Peter's Square on Sunday evening, at the precise moment the Polish pontiff passed away, 9:37 p.m. (3:37 a.m. in Manila), the Vatican said.

John Paul II died on April 2 after a long battle against crippling illness, ending a 26-year pontificate as spiritual leader of 1.1 billion Catholics.

Benedict XVI, the German-born former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was elected on April 19.

Rome's police chief Achille Serra told journalists Friday that organizers were expecting "at least 100,000" pilgrims to attend the commemoration, around half arriving from elsewhere in Italy.

Some 5,000 pilgrims are expected from John Paul II's native Poland.

"The organizational effort in Rome has dealt with greater numbers in the past," said Serra, calling attention to the countless pilgrims who arrived in Rome for the funeral of the pope last year.

Sunday's ceremony will begin with prayers, hymns and readings from the works of John Paul II organized by the Rome diocese, of which the pope is bishop.

On Monday, Benedict will celebrate a solemn memorial Mass for John Paul II in St. Peter's square at 5:30 p.m. (11:30 p.m. here).

Most poignant

Other commemorations are taking place in Mexico, Montevideo, Manila and across the Catholic world, where the faith's 1.1 billion members will be asked to remember the former pope, who visited 104 countries during his more than 26-year pontificate.

But perhaps the most poignant commemorations will take place in Krakow's Wawel Cathedral, where a special Mass will be celebrated by John Paul II's former private secretary, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz.

Dziwisz has asked Poles to wear a white ribbon on the anniversary, as a symbol of their "gratitude and joy" at knowing the late pope.

The following day, the bells of Wawel Cathedral will be rung at 9:37 p.m. during a special prayer Mass in which the cardinal will receive a torch being carried Olympic-flame style from John Paul II's tomb in Rome.

"Lolek's torch"—a reference to a nickname for Karol Wojtyla used by relatives and friends—was lit Tuesday from a candle next to the tomb in the crypt of St. Peter's.

A Mass will also take place outside the birthplace of the former pope in Wadowice.

Simple tomb swamped by tourists

The anniversary is expected to focus even greater interest in John Paul II's tomb, situated close to the Apostle Peter, in the crypt of St. Peter's.

Since his demise, the simple tomb has been visited by at least three million people, becoming, with the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, a fixture on the Roman tourist trail.

Books and movies detailing the life of the late pope have been released to coincide with the anniversary, including one book which recounts the recollections of those at the Vatican who were closest to him.

"Let Me Go to the Lord"—his last words, according to his personal doctor Renato Buzzonetti, is the title of a book co-authored by the octogenarian doctor, Dziwisz and Angelo Comastri, Vicar General of the Vatican City.

In the book, the doctor reveals that the Vatican kept secret for five years news that the pope had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease—which he developed in 1991—even though the symptoms were visible to the world.

Faithful secretary

Dziwisz, the faithful secretary of four decades who was elevated to cardinal by Benedict, is living proof of John Paul II's enduring popularity.

The 66-year-old Krakow archbishop was by far the most popular of the 15 new cardinals in the festive aftermath of the consistory, when a room allocated to him at the Vatican to receive well-wishers was thronged to overflowing.

AFP

US hospitals . . .

From page A1

peaked at 745 pounds. When her son was born three years ago, "I had to sit in the hospital bed the whole time—the hospital's rocker wouldn't fit my butt."

Today Henk helps Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis find better ways to deal with the growing number of very obese patients, an issue for many hospitals in the United States where obesity is a growing problem. Barnes-Jewish is replacing beds and wheelchairs with bigger models, widening doorways, buying larger CT scan machines, even replacing slippers and gowns.

Last year, patient care director Colleen Becker decided to check the numbers. She looked at a daily hospital census—about one-third of the 900 patients weighed 350 pounds (158 kilograms) or more.

Startled, Becker checked another date, then another. The numbers were consistent. On some days, half the patients were obese. Some weighed 500 pounds (225 kilograms) or more.

'Bariatic care'

"We ran the data again to make sure we weren't hallucinating," Becker said. "We weren't. So we had to somehow figure out the appropriate supplies, equipment, training and care for the patients we're dealing with."

The answer was a "bariatric care team," which Henk serves on, to address the challenges posed by obese patients. Those challenges are many.

Hospitals around the nation are working with equipment suppliers to accommodate larger patients, said Elizabeth Lietz, a spokeswoman for the American Hospital Association. And it's not just for the patients.

ATF Healthcare, a union representing 70,000 nurses and other workers at hospitals in 18 states, last week called for new laws forcing hospitals to buy equipment such as portable hoists to prevent worker injuries.

A union-commissioned survey of more than 900 nurses and X-ray technicians found the majority have chronic pain or have suffered injuries from lifting and moving patients.

Lift machines

At Barnes-Jewish, lift machines help some patients get in and out of bed. Chairs have been made stronger and wider. Lights have been added at floor level because the bodies of extremely obese people can cast a shadow that makes it hard to see the floor.

The hospital is replacing many of its beds—built to handle people weighing up to 350 pounds—with beds for 500-pound patients.

"Three-hundred-fifty pounds is nowhere near what we need for beds now," said Art Kidrow, a nurse manager at Barnes-Jewish. "We've had some 650-pounders up here."

Some wings of Barnes-Jewish are replacing 36-inch-wide doorways with those that are 48 or 52 inches (122 or 132 centimeters) wide. The bathrooms are being fitted with floor-mounted commodes that cannot be pulled out of the wall, and rooms reconfigured so patients can essentially get out of bed and step into the bathroom.

Bigger gowns

Gowns are bigger. Wheelchairs are wider. Even hospital-issued slippers come in extra-large sizes because the standard-issued footies were cutting off circulation for some patients.

Issues extend beyond the patient's room. Operating tables have been widened because the girth of some patients was lapping over the table, in some cases all the way to the floor, Becker said. CT scan machines weren't wide enough. Syringes with the longest available needles—4 1/2 inches(11.43 centimeters)—could not penetrate the fat.

Along with doctors and nurses, the hospital's 30-member bariatric care team includes former patients like Henk and people from the hospital's engineering and housekeeping units.

Henk, 41, represents both patients and those who try to help the obese—she is program manager for Washington University's weight management program.

She's been heavy for as long as she can remember—she was in Weight Watchers by age 5. "Everybody in my family is at least 100 pounds overweight," she said.

Gastric bypass surgery seven years ago helped her shed some weight, but she has dropped to 315 pounds (142 kilograms) mostly through better eating and exercise.

Still, she knows what larger people go through at the hospital.

Dignity for all

"I believe in dignity for whomever you are," Henk said. "It can be scary, too. If people are trying to lift you up and somebody doesn't have the strength, it's very scary."

Based on recommendations from the team, Barnes-Jewish has developed a protocol for lifting heavy patients.

The hospital is also working with suppliers. Manufacturers now offer more than 1,000 items specifically for obese patients, said Sandy Wise, of Novation LLC, a Texas-based company that provides contracting services between hospitals and manufacturers.

"It's been a trend probably for the last four or five years," Wise said. "Hospitals are continuing to see an increase in obese patients, and it affects every department. You have to think of the patient from head to toe, everything they do in the hospital until they walk out the door or they die."

In fact, Barnes-Jewish is striving to make even the end more dignified. Becker said the law requires a leak-proof body bag. Some patients were so large they wouldn't fit in them. The hospital is working with a vendor to develop a wider bag.

AP

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CASTILLO is one of the Manila Police's two highest-ranking policewomen. REM ZAMORA

MPD's little big woman heads all-female SWAT team

Supt. Lilian Castillo fulfills childhood dream

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TALES OF THE CITY

A WOMAN ON THE SWAT TEAM?

There's more.

Supt. Lilian Castillo is chief of the Manila Police District's (MPD) elite all-female Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

SWAT team members are deployed to handle situations beyond the scope of on-duty policemen because of limitations in equipment or expertise.

"The special all-female SWAT team was formed last year because there are times when female police officers are needed to handle delicate situations," Castillo said. For instance, she said, female SWAT members were preferred over men to handle women hostage situations to avoid accusations of sexual harassment.

To qualify, members of the all-women SWAT team had to go through a tough regimen of obstacle courses and special exercises "to toughen their muscles" under Lt. Roger Lindevall, a former member of the Swedish Marines. The team was later deployed to the front lines of the CDM unit at the height of the anti-administration rallies last October.

"The presence of the female police officers somehow softened the image of our male counterparts who were accused of indiscriminately hurting militants and protesters during crowd control and dispersal operations," Castillo said.

High-ranking policewoman

One of the MPD's two highest ranking policewomen, the spunky Castillo, who holds a rank equivalent to that of a lieutenant colonel in the military service, also heads the MPD's Civil Disturbance Management (CDM) unit and the District Intelligence and Investigation Division (DIID) investigation section.

Not bad for someone who was always positioned at the head of a line during school activities when she was growing up as a scrawny, pint-sized kid in Nueva Ecija.

"Although I had always dreamt of becoming a police official, I never expected to become one because of my physique," an amused Castillo told the INQUIRER, referring to her height of 5'3" and small built.

Luckily, it was not in her character to be daunted by obstacles. When the opportunity to lead the newly created female SWAT team presented itself, the 44-year-old police official agreed to the assignment without any second thoughts.

As chief of three vital units, Castillo recalled several instances in which she had to change into three different uniforms after her superiors requested her to head the SWAT team, the CDM unit and the DIID's monitoring group during a rally, all on the same day.

Multitasking expert

"I've always been an expert at multitasking," said the police official who began her career on the force as a beat patrolwoman in 1986. After all, Castillo endured the rigors of traveling all the way to the Philippine College of Criminology (PCCR) in Manila from Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija, where she was assigned as a rookie police officer, to complete her master's degree.

Not that her previous assignment was any less hectic. Before joining the Manila police force, Castillo served as aide de camp to then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo, both on land and underwater.

Castillo said her dedication to her work stemmed from a childhood dream to emulate her policeman-father. "I wanted to become a policeman like him, but I did not want to end up in the same pit of disillusionment and frustra-

MPD'S LITTLE/ A24

CASTILLO once served as aide de camp to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, both on land and underwater. REM ZAMORA

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JANE Walker (second from right) with some of the children her foundation—the Philippine Christian Foundation Inc.—helped put through school. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sweet charity unearths treasures in Tondo dump

UK-funded foundation helps poor Filipino children map out rosier future

By Tina G. Santos

DEEP IN THE HEART OF VITAS, Tondo, a woman with a heart of gold is helping children of garbage pickers or scavengers, as they are often called, make their dreams come true.

For Jane Walker, a British national who has been in the country for nearly 10 years, the sight of children wandering around and collecting garbage to help their families earn a living instead of being in school touched her heart.

This prompted Walker to establish the Philippine Christian Foundation Inc. (PCFI), a non-government organization which aims to help disadvantaged children and their families look forward to a rosier future through various education projects.

In Tondo, PCFI has started a preschool in the Helping Foundation Building at the Smokey Mountain Temporary Housing North Pier 18, a dilapidated structure where over 200 children, aged 8-16 years old, living on and around the dump, were being educated, fed and clothed.

Just recently, about 80 children in nursery and the kindergarten level graduated to the delight of their proud parents.

'Incredibly bright'

"It is a huge achievement for these children and their families to complete one year education," Walker said. "Many of them are incredibly bright. I believe we found treasures in the dump. They are the most amazing kids and they understand that education is important."

She added, "The waste-picking communities need help to survive and every child deserves the right to have an education, a hot meal everyday and the chance to make choices to change their own future."

P100 yearly tuition

Parents only pay P100 a year for their kids' tuition.

"The parents go on a payment plan because they can only afford to pay P10 a month. But we don't believe in doing everything for free. We believe that this is their project so we would like them to contribute to it in any way they can," she explained.

Walker said the parents also help out by cleaning and decorating the school, doing kitchen duty, and assisting during field trips.

A CHILD in a depressed community receives medicine from a volunteer. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life-changing visit

The 42-year-old Walker said she was inspired to start her charity work when she came to the country in 1996.

She recalled that she found her "true calling" during a visit to a public cemetery in Navotas and Smokey Mountain in Tondo.

"I went to a dump and saw lots of children working in it. I went to the cemetery and found children living there so I promised that I would build a daycare center for the children," Walker said.

She was as good as her word. In 1998, Walker built and funded a small school in the Navotas public cemetery which was also home to 500 families who could barely make ends meet, much less send their children to school.

THE PCFI also provides its beneficiaries with food, clothing and medicine. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In 2003, she started the school in Smokey Mountain, Tondo.

Eager to learn

"Mingling with these children, I was happy to find out that they were very keen and eager to learn. That gave me the push to pursue my plans for them," she told the INQUIRER.

Aside from the children in Navotas and Tondo, the PCFI has also been providing education to underprivileged children in a dump in Baguio and Bacolod.

At present, Walker juggles her time between Manila and the United Kingdom where she holds fund-raising activities.

"My dream is to build a school which could educate every child who is working or living in the dump or cemeteries from preschool to high school," said Walker, who intends to stay permanently in the Philippines with her 8-year-old son starting this August.

"I see so much potential in these children and their families. I don't see them as scavengers, I see them as professional recyclists, I see them as the strength of the Filipino people because they're hardworking, they make the best of bleak situations, and best of all, they do it with a smile. To me that is the strength of the Filipino and it is a great privilege to serve them in whichever way we can," Walker said.

Those who wish to send donations may contact the PCFI at Midland Plaza 4th Floor, Unit 422, Adriatico Street in Ermita Manila, or call (02) 3026410 or e-mail jane@p-c-f.org

Work abroad now, pay later program set

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PLANNING TO WORK ABROAD but wondering how to pay your fees? Residents in Rodriguez, Rizal, can go to their municipal hall.

Not that they will be given instant cash. But the local government is now willing to help them get them a loan for their placement fees.

"There are many qualified workers in our town but they don't get a chance to work abroad because they don't have enough money," Mayor Pedro Cuerpo told the INQUIRER.

But through his program called "Work abroad now, Pay later," the Montalban Overseas and Labor Employment Office of the municipality will help qualified workers get loans from formal lending institutions like the Philippine National Bank, with whom the local government had already signed an agreement.

"Many aspirants have been borrowing money from lenders who charge steep interests, or pawning their property. We want to stop that," Cuerpo added in Filipino.

The program, launched in January, has already benefited at least 13 workers. Two of them left earlier while 11 female workers left for Taiwan yesterday morning to work in an electronic assembly plant.

SPD looking forward to Holy Week

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ALTHOUGH HE AND HIS MEN would be busy ensuring the safety of people who would be going home to the provinces during Holy Week, Southern Police District director Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia believes the task would not be as difficult compared to last year.

Last year's Lenten season was stressful, Garcia told the INQUIRER, because the police were on their toes to prevent possible retaliatory attacks following the Bicutan jail siege.

The March 15, 2004 incident resulted in the death of 22 suspected Abu Sayyaf members, including the top three leaders of the bandit group, who were detained at the Metro Manila District Jail in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

About 1,500 policemen have already been deployed on the streets of southern Metro Manila to ensure peace and order and prevent terrorist elements from striking during the weeklong holiday, the police official said.

The police will also be securing churches and other places of worship where thousands of Catholics are expected to gather to observe Holy Week.

Car salesman loses SUV to thieves in parking lot

By DJ Yap

A CAR SALESMAN LOST A SPORTS utility vehicle to car thieves at the parking lot of a mall in Quezon City on Friday.

Michael Ty, 29, a sales representative of Nissan North Edsa, parked a garnet Nissan Patrol at Ever Gotesco on Commonwealth Avenue to meet a client at about 2 p.m., according to police.

When he and a companion came back, the SUV was already gone, according to investigator PO3 Diosdado Rocero of the Batasan Hills Police.

The SUV was a 2005 model with conduction sticker number LA6379, Ty told police. It was valued at P2.556 million, he said.

The case was turned over to the Quezon City's anti-car theft unit.

Meanwhile, police recovered on Friday a stolen motorcycle that was used as a getaway vehicle in a robbery two days before.

A Honda XR 200 with plate number PI-3128 turned up in front of 504 Culiat Compound, Tandang Sora, a day after it was reportedly used by a thief to rob an electronics store.

The motorcycle was earlier reported to have been used by the unidentified thief to rob Colortech Electronic Service along Regalado Street in Barangay Lagro on March 29.

Gun in one hand, rosary in the other

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AN 18-YEAR-OLD BOY WAS found dead inside his room in Taguig City before dawn yesterday. In his left hand, he held a rosary and crucifix. In the right, he held a gun.

Police said Jaime Orsenado Jr., a junior nursing student of the San Juan de Dios College and a resident of R. Papa Avenue, AFPOVAI in Barangay Western Bicutan, probably committed suicide.

Initial investigation said Orsenado did not answer when his brother-in-law, Michael Cordova, knocked on his door several times at about 4:45 a.m. Cordova forced the door open and found Orsenado with a gunshot wound in the head. His girlfriend, Kathlyn Garcia, told the police that the victim had been depressed for months due to "family problems."

QC welcomes summer with monofin swimming

By DJ Yap

THIS SEASON OF SUN, SEA AND sand, learn how to swim like "Dyesebel."

Summer has officially begun in the country with the introduction of monofin swimming, a technique that resembles the way mythical mermaids move in the water.

In the hope of developing enough talent to compete internationally, Quezon City has organized the first ever monofin swimming program for the youth in the Philippines, according to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

Monofin swimmers use a single-bladed swimfin made of glass fiber or carbon fiber that is attached to their feet.

Because of the tail-like appearance of the swimfin, a monofin swimmer resembles a dolphin—or a mermaid.

The training of youngsters, aged between 10 and 18, in monofin swimming will begin today at the Amoranto Sports Complex, said Quezon City administrator Pacquito Ochoa Jr.

The city tied up with Dive Republic, a private training company for divers and swimmers, for the project in line with Quezon City's Youth and Sports Development program.

At the launch last Friday, Ochoa invited the youth to take part in the swimming program.

MPD's little big woman heads all female SWAT team

From page A23

tion," she said.

Castillo, the eldest of five girls, recalled that her father Eduardo, a former barangay captain from Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, was appointed by the mayor as a policeman in the early 1970s.

The elder Castillo, however, did not make it to the position of police officer because he was not able to get a college education.

"I witnessed my father being humiliated by the other policemen who looked down on him," Castillo said.

She also remembered that her dad was always absent whenever she received an award given for outstanding grades in school. "He wanted to pin on our medals and ribbons, but he could not because he had to stay behind to follow some police official's orders."

Followed in father's footsteps

Despite her father's unhappy experiences in the workplace, Castillo said she was inspired to follow in his footsteps—albeit in a different direction.

"I promised myself that I would be somebody someday, that I would return to my town and redeem my father's sense of dignity and honor," she said.

The police official proved to be an accurate prophet. The passing years saw her steady rise from a beat patrolwoman to police inspector, and then as Ms Arroyo's aide de camp when she was vice president.

Castillo's assignments took her to Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija; Angeles City, Pampanga; and Camp Crame in Quezon City, where she earned various awards as an outstanding police officer.

Her growing responsibilities, however, did not prevent her from undergoing various training programs and seminars to improve her skills.

Scuba diving, motorcycle riding

"I even trained in motorcycle riding and scuba diving," Castillo said. "I wanted to explore different fields, something my father would have done if he had been given the chance."

Her training came in handy when she was assigned as a member of the Presidential Security Group in 2001.

"My skills earned me a place in President Macapagal-Arroyo's speed boat whenever she scuba dived," Castillo proudly said. "I was the only PSG member who had the privilege of guiding her underwater," the policewoman added..

Castillo was also assigned to head the PSG motorcycle team and motor pool unit, where she was responsible for maintaining the First Family's vehicles.

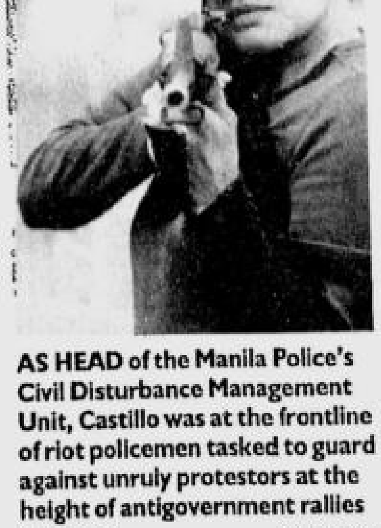
"I had a heavy heart when I left the PSG last year, but I explained to the President that it was part of my career advancement and growth as a person," she said.

Self-improvement

According to Castillo, she has learned a very valuable lesson from her experiences: That improving one's self is something you have to do on your own.

"Even when I cannot be the best in a particular field, I try hard to be among the best by continuously learning and not giving up on my goals," the police official said.

From a remote, mountain town to the seat of the most powerful family in the country, to the home of Manila's Finest, Castillo has truly made good on her childhood vow.

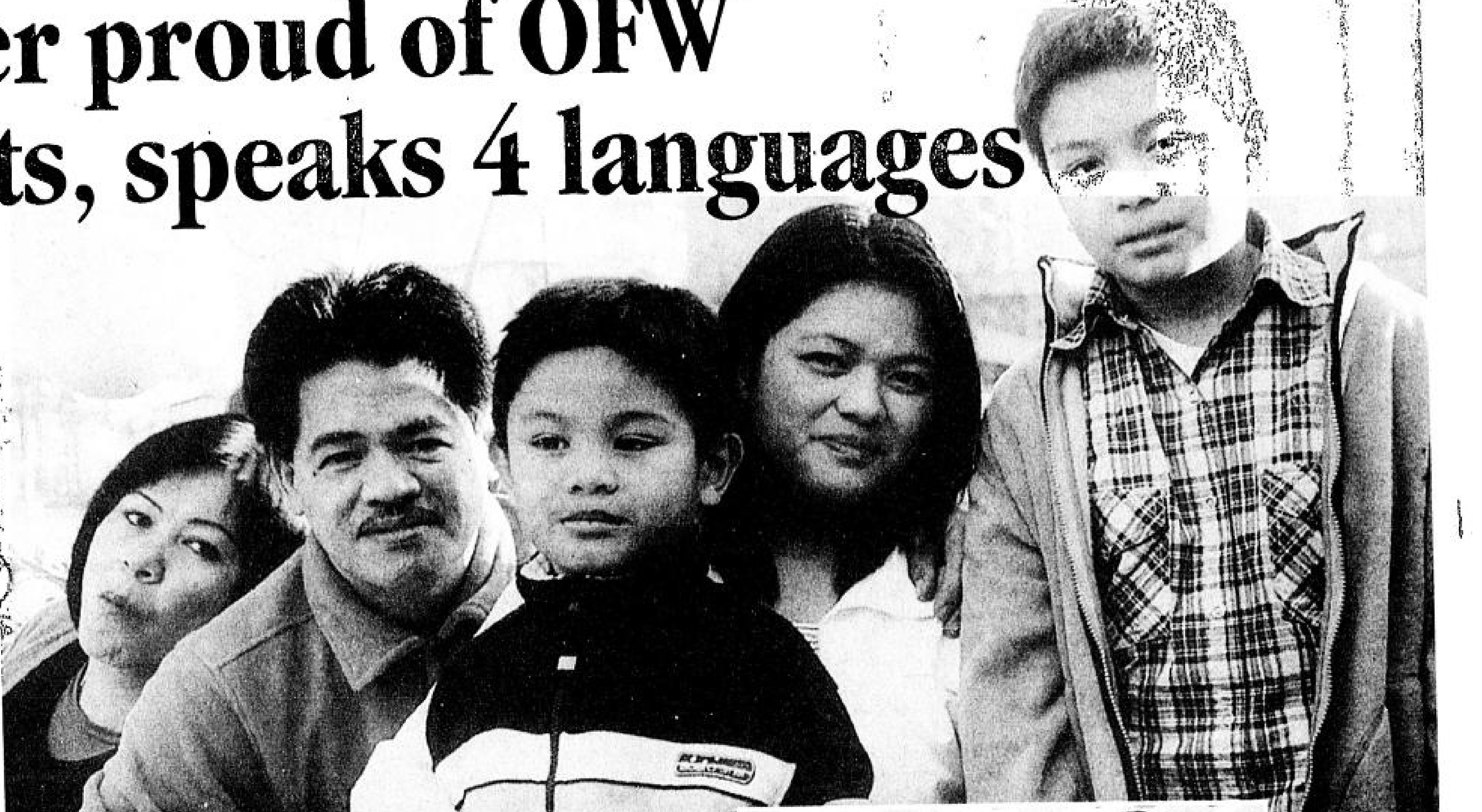


AS HEAD of the Manila Police's Civil Disturbance Management Unit, Castillo was at the frontline of riot policemen tasked to guard against unruly protestors at the height of antigovernment rallies last year. REM ZAMORA

GLOBAL Pinoy
Editor Gerry Lirio
E-mail: pr_global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer gp name/age/city/message
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Daughter proud of OFW parents, speaks 4 languages



THE FAMILY that stays together: Jan with (from left) waitress mom Siony, musician father Antonio, and brothers Florenz and Reyman in Hong Kong

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PERPETUALLY ANIMATED CLASS settled down as soon as the girl with streaks of magenta in her hair walked up front.

Word was that this girl, their classmate Jan Yumul got a British accent. They were all eager to hear her do a mock newscast à la CNN or BBC.

Jan, 19, gamely cleared her throat then began reading a made-up story on an abducted Filipino-American student in clear, effortless, and unmistakably Brit diction.

A sophomore journalism student at the University of Santo Tomas, Jan actually speaks four languages, and British English is just one of them.

She's also fluent in French and has a competent grasp of Cantonese, Tagalog, and Waray, her parents' native tongue.

A song-writer, drummer, keyboard player, and vocalist—she's also known for all these, a multi-faceted musician.

But lest anyone forget, she's more importantly the daughter of two hardworking OFW parents, she would often remind friends.

"That's who I am and I always tell people that," she says in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Jan brims with pride whenever her parents, both of them working in Hong Kong, crop up in a conversation. Their struggle in the former British colony defined her character, she would say.

Musician father

Hard times sent her father Antonio packing from their small house in Alang-Alang, Leyte for a musician's job in Hong Kong in 1987. His job at a local band in Tacloban had offered no bright hopes for his newborn Jan and wife Siony.

Antonio, 51, was hired as a keyboardist at an all-Filipino band playing country music at the New World Renaissance Hotel.

The following year, he took his wife and daughter to live with him. They settled at a 15-room tenement they shared with other OFWs working in the hotel at Hong Kong's Tsim Sha Tsui District in Kowloon.

Siony soon found a job as a waitress at a Korean restaurant. That, too, kept her away most of the time like her husband.

Jan grew up often in the company of Filipino neighbors next door. By the time she was old enough for school, she knew she was getting parallel lessons in real life.

"I grew up with the image of both of my parents always working," she recalls. "While they were out, I was being 'educated' in a way that we don't usually find in books."

A compatriot in need

Jan, for instance, learned that survival in a far-off place like Hong Kong depended heavily on hard work. Surrender to laziness or recklessness and you'll end up hungry and broke.

She learned, too, that Pinoys would never abandon a compatriot especially in times of need.

One time, she remembered her family having almost nothing for dinner. It was difficult to conceal since they shared a common kitchen with other families. The others quickly realized it and sent a plate or two.

"That was how it worked there—people helped other people even if they didn't have enough for themselves too," Jan says.

It wasn't easy to stay afloat even if her father's job offered roughly HK$7,000 monthly. Besides, he had to work from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. for 10 years straight, without a single day off.

Jan says her father would have preferred to stay on had not the 1997 Asian financial crisis driven him out of his hotel job. The band switched to Latino music, hoping a major musical shift might help extend its stint at the hotel's "Bar City."

Chicken dinner

It still didn't and he went jobless for about a year. By that time, the couple had two other children, Raymarc John and Florenz Anthony, and Jan was nearing the end of primary school.

Wife Siony had to take another job, alternating in a restaurant and a hotel bar.

How the family survived the crisis Jan would never forget. She recalls her mother buying a small pack of "chicken legs" and make it good for a week's meal. Siony would chop a small part in even smaller pieces then mix them up with "miswa."

Boiled monggo beans was a common, though not exactly delectable, alternative for a viand. "It went on for about two years," Jan says.

A hardworking father with no job and a devoted mother forced to work even harder both left a deep impression in their daughter. Soon she began asking why many of their compatriots in Hong Kong weren't accorded the respect they deserved.

In a multi-cultural place like Hong Kong, she laments that Pinoys are all "mere" domestic helpers: Never mind if maids, they, too, earn a decent living.

Trash bins for Filipinos

In a way, they're also victim of their own folly, she says. Trash bins in Hong Kong, for example, carry reminders in Tagalog. It means only that Filipinos often need to be reminded.

Jan is convinced respect won't offer itself especially in a foreign land. But she earned it quite naturally.

While her parents were preoccupied back-breaking jobs, she busied herself with her schooling. It wasn't difficult to stand out for someone as talented as she was.

At the Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School in West Kowloon, Jan made a name as drummer, keyboardist, and vocalist of an amateur, all-girls and all-Filipino band called "The Disciples." She also had a stint in broadcasting at a Catholic radio program.

They were taught French in school.

When Hong Kong was hit by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2003, Jan and her bandmates came up with a song on the medical tragedy, essentially reviving hope amid a dejected community.

The band got a major break later that year when it was invited to perform during the month-long Temple Street Festival, a local government project to promote tourism.

Japanese fan

During break at one gig, a Japanese lady approached the group and asked, "How come you Filipinos are so good in music?"

Jan smiled. Respect had been earned.

She went back to the Philippines two years ago to finish college here. It was far more expensive in Hong Kong than in Manila and besides, she wanted to experience home.

The polluted streets of Manila weren't exactly the ideal place for a person like Jan who had spent all her life abroad. But she's coping and somehow learning to love it.

"At first I was somehow culture shocked because in Hong Kong, people were so particular about rules. Here, it seemed people were getting away with anything," she says.

To be a waitress

"One thing I learned from our life there is that I can find myself in any situation and I will survive."

Next week, Jan will fly back to Hong Kong for something she had long wanted to do. She'll spend the rest of her summer vacation working probably as a waitress like what her mother used to do.

"My mom tells me to just finish my studies, it will be my greatest gift to them," she says, noting that Siony now manages a Mexican restaurant while her father's a building administrator.

"But I feel obliged to work and I like it too. When I look at my family, I really want to help them in any way I can."

SONGS FOR SARS: Jan (left) with friend Charity Dumpit stage a concert at the height of the SARS crisis in Hong Kong.

FAST FACTS

OFW Remittances

Country	2004 (US dollars, in millions)	2005	2004 (various currencies* in millions)	2005	
USA	4,904.30	6,424.85	4,904.30	6,424.85	dollar
Saudi Arabia	877.21	949.37	3,289.52	3,560.31	rial
Italy	449.29	430.07	361.32	345.28	euro
Japan	308.13	356.66	33,307.75	39,180.49	yen
Hong Kong	273.81	338.90	2,132.44	2,635.75	dollar
United Kingdom	280.80	300.72	153.23	165.15	pounds
Singapore	182.57	240.15	308.50	399.54	dollar
Dubai (UAE)	106.50	151.61	391.12	556.04	dirham
Germany	96.46	134.80	77.57	108.22	euro
Canada	67.34	117.06	87.49	141.73	dollar
Abu Dhabi (UAE)	76.95	105.9	282.60	388.73 dirham	
Kuwait	86.03	91.76	25.35	26.61 dinar	
Australia	38.57	49.92	52.22	65.49	dollar
Subtotal	7,747.96	9,691.69			
other countries	802.41	997.31			
TOTAL	8,550.37	10,689.00			

SOURCES: BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, TECHNISTOCK, CIA WORLD FACTBOOK

When in trouble abroad, help is a text away 24/7

By Julie M. Aurelio

FOR MALTREATED PINOY WORKERS, help is just a text away 24/7.

The Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA) has come up with a text-based mechanism for requests for help and reports about distressed overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) worldwide.

The SOS Short Messaging System (SOS SMS) was conceptualized and developed by migrant workers in the Middle East who wanted a quicker response to distress calls from OFWs.

The CMA promotes the rights of OFWs and their families through policy advocacy, information dissemination, networking and direct assistance.

Ellene Sana, CMA executive director, told the INQUIRER that the idea for SOS SMS came up during a series of abductions involving Filipino workers in the Middle East.

"SOS SMS offers a way to report quickly cases of distressed OFWS ... Even if an OFW is in jail, as long as he has access to a cell phone, he can ask for help or intervention from the government," she said in a phone interview.

An OFW must key in SOS <space> <sender's name & message> and send to +639209OFWSOS or +63920963967. The messages are received by a central computer and forwarded to the CMA and the Department of Foreign Affairs' Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (Oumwa) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa).

IT engineers

Filipino IT engineers in the Middle East developed the system in 2005.

Sana said the system could also be used to conduct polls or surveys, as well as voluntary registration of undocumented OFWs.

She added, "We limit our intervention to referral of the case. We can't take charge of the case." Reports are referred to the Oumwa or the Owwa for action.

When it gets a SOS message, CMA asks the OFW to contact the Philippine Embassy or labor office in the country where he/she resides. At the same time, it alerts the government office.

Pedro Chan, Oumwa executive director, said he forwarded cases of distressed OFWs to case officers at the DFA Action Center. Case officers would contact the OFW to verify the report.

Most cases, Chan added, were from OFWs in Middle East countries like Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Israel. Complaints range from maltreatment, sexual abuse, nonpayment of wages, or working without a permit.

Sana noted most cries for help were from men, as they usually had more access to cell phones.

Profiling

In Saudi Arabia, the CMA formed the Pusong Mamon Task Force, a team of OFWs that provide immediate assistance to fellow migrant workers. Sana said Pusong Mamon members were briefed on how to be sensitive and address the plight of workers.

"The point is to be able to give immediate assistance. Not all cases are immediately resolved, especially (those) of OFWs who are detained or jailed," she told the INQUIRER.

Sana said SOS SMS would not only address calls for help. The system allowed CMA to document, index, classify and analyze reported cases of distress in terms of work category, geographical location, gender, forms of abuse and work place, she added.

"In terms of advocacy, SOS SMS gives you a picture of what the problems of the migrants are. Do we have gaps in terms of policies, human resources or implementation? We can see that in the increase of the number of cases reported," she said.

Experimental stage

The CMA, however, still has to finalize a memorandum of agreement with the Oumwa and Owwa. But Chan said the lack of a MOA did not affect the implementation of SOS SMS.

He added that the SOS SMS was still in the experimental stage and the Oumwa and CMA were ironing the kinks, like identifying emergency cases as when OFWs got involved in accidents or were jailed.

Sana said CMA would eventually hand over implementation of SOS SMS to the government. She said the group was also amenable to sharing the concept of SOS SMS with migrants of different nationalities.

Positive feedback

"It is a good project. I think it's 50 percent successful so far. But some routine cases we receive are like the ones we receive at the Action Center," Chan said.

Sana said the SOS SMS project had its share of technical glitches, spam and fake distress calls from pranksters. But they also received positive feedback from OFWs through text.

"Some people text us to say this is really a good project. It's good that they appreciate it," Sana said. "It helps them a lot. Even if (a concrete solution is not achieved immediately), they (the OFWs) know their woes are being listened to."

For inquiries, please visit the Center for Migrant Advocacy website: http://www.pinoy-abroad.net, or call their office at 9205003.

Hundred Islands lures balikbayans

By Melody Aligada
Contributor

ALAMINOS CITY—OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers (OFWs), mostly from the land of Uncle Sam and many of them professionals, returned to their native soil on a mission.

The over 300 OFWs and their families revisited their once sleepy hometown of Alaminos in Pangasinan. They came from California, United States; and Canada, as well as from Europe for a grand alumni homecoming of the Alaminos National High School or ANHS (formerly Alaminos High School)) and the celebration of the feast of the city's patron saint, St. Joseph the Worker last March 19.

The reunion, dubbed Hundred Islands Global Pinoy Homecoming 2006, was initiated by Mayor Hernani Braganza.

The OFWs hoped to share their blessings with the students of the ANHS. They also wanted to help develop the Hundred Islands National Park (HINP) as an ecotourism destination.

ALAMINOS Mayor Nani Braganza (second from right) receive members of the Alaminos City Association of San Diego County, Alaminos High School Alumni Association International and Alaminos, Pangasinan Association of Southern California, all wanting to help develop the Hundred Islands as an eco-tourism destination. RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Living legacy

"We wanted to leave a living legacy so that other Alaminians may follow suit and contribute in the continuing progress of the Hundred Islands and the whole province of Pangasinan," said members of the Alaminos City Association of San Diego County (ACASDC), Alaminos High School Alumni Association International (AHSAAI) and Alaminos, Pangasinan Association of Southern California (APASCA).

They said they learned of the homecoming and fiesta from the web site of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, which featured the rebirth of the islands last year.

Braganza said, "We dedicate this fiesta not only to our balikbayan from Europe and Northern America, but also to Alaminians outside the Pangasinan province."

Dr. Jimmy Boton, concurrent president of ACASDC and AHSAAI, vowed the support of the organizations' members for their alma mater and kababayan.

He said he was planning to invest in janitorial and security services, agribusiness and the construction of a multimillion peso high-rise building for commercial and residential purposes in Barangay Lucap to help the city generate more revenues and create jobs.

"I have a passion to help and change people. This prompted me to gather the alumni in the US and initiate helping our alma mater in 1994," he said.

Donations

ACASD and AHSAAI had donated since 1998 books and other reading materials, computers, printers, fax machines, garden tools and equipment, cash incentives and scholarship grants to graduating class valedictorians and salutatorians; and US$4,000 for chairs.

The associations also conducted medical and eye care missions for Alaminos residents.

Boton, who is also president of the San Diego Executive Lions Club, graduated from the Alaminos High School in 1959 and took up animal husbandry at Araneta University. He got a master's degree in agriculture (animal breeding) and a doctorate in animal science.

He was director of the Manila Zoo from 1986 to 1992 and dean of the Department of Animal Science at the Araneta University before migrating to California in 1993.

Hard work

Life was not easy at first. White collar job were hard to come by. Swallowing his pride, he worked as a bus boy and nursing aide at the Demington Nursing Home for the elderly. He also worked in a post office to support his wife Corazon, and five children, including an adopted daughter.

Hard work eventually paid off. He was able to set up a small business, the Quikling janitorial services. The posh Ayala Heights Subdivision near the Capitol Golf Club in Tandang Sora, Quezon City is now home to Boton's family in Metro Manila.

"I don't intend to stay in the US. I encourage our kababayan to come home and see what they can do for Alaminos and the country," he said.

"Though I seldom come home, I know what's going on in Alaminos, which has grown from a town into a city. It has improved a lot. The place is clean and the people are more disciplined," Boton said.

Registered nurse Purificacion Navarro, 59, spent 33 years working at Scripps Mercy Hospital, also in San Diego.

"I am an active member of the alumni association that continues to provide what the school children need. We will raise money once we go back to the States for the procurement of more chairs for these children," she said.

The 1963 graduate of the high school, married a Filipino-born US Navy serviceman in 1973.

Navarro, who said, she still spoke her native tongue and ate pinakbet, said she had not been home for 33 years.

Nurses

Gloria Rabago-Williams felt blessed she had a high-paying job as a registered nurse at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Sacramento, California and a close-knit family of renewed Christians.

"Do you know that a nurse (in the US) receives US$50 per hour?" she asked.

She finished high school in 1966, though she had to stop for a year due to financial difficulties.

"I remember the days when I had to feed the chickens at 4 a.m. and plant tomato seeds. I (could not play) as a young kid because I had to work hard to help the family," she said.

At 13, she started dreaming of becoming a nurse someday. But poverty compelled her to take up education. A brother with the Philippine Navy spent for her studies at the Northwest Education Institution in Dagupan City. But she was not meant for teaching.

Then luck knocked on her door in 1974. A friend gave her an application form for a nursing scholarship in Scotland.

"I was alone, lonely and very homesick. I was not eating, nor sleeping. Being away from home was very hard...there were only two Filipinos there," she said.

She was, however, determined to pursue her goal.

She flunked the nursing board examination the first time but passed the second time.

In 1978, she went to London to work as a full-time nurse. Two years later, she transferred to the US, where he met husband Douglas Williams, an employee of the state's Franchise Tax Board.

SEX AT SEA

Not all seamen want a woman in every port

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

HE WORKED AS A COOK IN INTERNATIONAL ocean vessels for 32 years, but Jun Anatan, 55, swore that in all those years, he remained faithful to his wife.

True or not, Anatan's case is highly atypical. Sex—where to find it, how to get it—is a favorite topic among Filipino seamen who bask in their reputation as charming Lotharios who can have a woman in every port.

In fact, it was this prospect and that of traveling the world while earning dollars that enticed Gregory Cagod, 35, to abandon the gold mines in Davao and pursue a three-year maritime course. For 10 years, Cagod was among the country's more than 300,000 seafarers abroad who sent at least US$1.5 billion in yearly remittances.

SEAFARERS Fred Fuentes, Gerry Cagod and Jun Anatan recall their life onboard international shipping vessels. PENNIE AZARCON-DELA CRUZ

Still single

Armed with anticipation and a keen sense of adventure, Cagod was single then and had no wedding vows to stop him from living it up during shore leave. There's just too much pressure from working onboard a ship, he said. "*Wala, masisira ang ulo mo pag di ka lumabas*. You see the same faces everyday for 11 months, your bosses yell at you all the time, you miss your family… you need an outlet to survive."

For seafarers, that means stepping out and drinking in a bar, watching a girlie show and having sex.

It didn't help that Filipino sailors were easily the most popular with the girls compared to seamen of other nationalities, observed Fred Fuentes, 56, who'd rather use an alias when talking about his sex life in the open seas. "Filipino men are known to be *galante*, and *malambing*," Fuentes said.

The ship's cook was the women's favorite target, said Fuentes who worked as one for 24 years. "*Hawak kasi niya ang susi sa langit*," he said, referring to the cook's open access to the food items in the ship. "He can give the women any food they want from the larder and they know it, too."

The risks in having indiscriminate sex was farthest from their mind, said Cagod.

STDs, HIVs

Lectures on sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV-AIDS prevention were hardly given in most pre-departure orientation seminars (PDOS).

"It really depends on your manning agency. Some arrange such seminars," said Fuentes who attended one before boarding a ship.

Anatan observed that, except for the very general "*Magtrabaho kayo nang husto, magingat sa babae*," most PDOS offered little by way of STD prevention.

Most men got their information from colleagues, while others read brochures distributed by non-government organizations (NGOs) among sailors on shore leave, said Cagod.

But the seminar and brochures were no guarantee the men would practice safe sex, Cagod added. "When the beer does its work, when the teasing begins and the girls start getting amorous, everything flies out the window. *Nakakalimutan na lahat*. Having sex becomes the main concern. After all, we've been working really hard, we're away from our loved ones, *nagsasakripisyo kami nang husto*. We feel we're entitled to some fun."

Having fun, infection

When the inevitable happens and the men suspect they may have contracted a STD, they turn to each other. "We cannot tell the captain lest we be pulled out and lose our jobs," said Cagod.

Interjected Anatan: "And you only tell your close friends *kasi kakantyawan ka ng iba*." What the infected man would do was buy antibiotics or penicillin on the sly and go on self-medication, said Cagod. "There are no supplies on the ship because we're not supposed to have STD. It's a well-guarded secret."

Despite the lack of information, however, Fuentes said he knew when a woman was "high-risk" and could tell if she had STD. "First, I look at her genitals. You can tell if they're healthy or if they stink. Then if it feels very hot inside, then she's infected."

Scent of a woman

Cagod agreed. "Yes, they say that if a woman smells and she feels very hot, then she must have STD. After all, she's bound to be feverish when she has infection."

Dr. Sylvia Estrada-Claudio, chair of the board of LIKHAAN, a women's health and reproductive rights NGO, clarified however, "Sores and a foul discharge are legitimate signs of possible infection or STD, but not all STDs (show symptoms). A lot, like HIV-AIDS, can be totally (without symptoms) for years so there's no way of telling."

The basic rule, she said, was to practice safe sex. "The proper use of condom-how to put it on, when to use it-is important.

Certain situations and positions make people more vulnerable to STDs, so seafarers must be aware of these and how condoms can help."

Among themselves, and in the boring confines of an 11-month contract, the men trade information on their sex needs as well.

Seaman's toys, tools

Said Cagod: "In West Africa, our ship would always get swamped by hawkers selling us some kind of dried testicle in a bottle that's supposed to make us harder and longer. It cost US$20 and is supposed to be the genitals of a crocodile, or is it a horse?" He bought one, he said, but was too afraid to try it. "The other guys kept egging me to buy it, but nobody could tell me if it worked."

Not that they talked about sex all the time, Fuentes said, "but when it's late at night and there's no more program on TV, we watch X-rated films and that's when we talk about women."

It's mostly because they missed their wives, Cagod said. "It's very clear to us that the women we meet during shore leave are there strictly for sex. We're not about to have relationships with them out of deference to our families back home."

It was this deference and the thought of hurting their wives that prevented seafarers from discussing protective measures arising from their extramarital activities with their lifetime partners, said Fuentes. Added Anatan: "I tell my friends, (but) never imply to my wife that I stray, even in jest. I don't even want her to think about such things and put our relationship in peril."

Most seafarers, said Fuentes, didn't offer to wear condoms to protect their wives from STD and HIV-AIDS when they got home. "To do so would be to stir up suspicions that I've had sex with other women, and I don't want to risk that."

Condom, guilt, pleasures

Such reticence about using condoms and discussing risk-prevention could account for the high percentage of seamen being infected with HIV/AIDS. According to the HIV/AIDS Registry of the National Epidemiology Center of the Health Department, 805 or 34 percent of the 2,373 HIV positive cases are overseas Filipino workers. Of the infected OFWs, 35 percent are seafarers.

Despite the high-risk behavior of their husbands, wives of seafarers also have huge misgivings about bringing up the subject of condoms, according to Dr. Maria Elena F. Borromeo, UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS) country coordinator. "They don't want their husbands to think they don't trust them so they'd rather keep quiet and hope they won't get infected."

The fact that women were dependent on their husbands also prevented them from speaking up, Borromeo added. Guilt also came into the picture. "The wives say, 'but our men have sacrificed a lot, surely they deserve sex the way they want it'."

Certainly, women needed more awareness-raising to improve their negotiation skills on condom use, the doctor added. "But it takes a certain level of maturity and open communications for the women to feel empowered enough to claim their right to protection."

Dr. Estrada-Claudio zeroed in on the men, however. "It is more a matter of cultivating among seafarers the right attitude towards condom. Let's not go anymore into whether they're being suspected as having had sex with other women, or they're entitled to sex whichever way because they've earned it. Instead, look at what all that inconvenience, the diminished pleasure from using condoms, the slight to the ego, is worth. *Ano ang katumbas? Buhay*! The health, safety and life of your wife and family are at stake. Isn't that worth something?"

Most seamen's wives, like Rita Ogbinar, 53, whose husband Tony used to be a captain, however knew the initiative must come from them. "I made sure we communicated regularly and wrote letters weekly so his thoughts would always be on the family," she said. She suggested condom use once, she admitted, but her husband did not receive it well.

After that, she learned to devise ways to protect herself. "I used the usual ways: douching, regular medical checkups."

But she was luckier than most wives, acknowledged Ogbinar who used to be active in the Seamen's Wives Association of the Phils. (SWAPI). "My husband came from a good school and a good family so I know he's very disciplined and has self-control when it comes to those situations. He's also very religious. Matipid din yan. So I'm not too worried. He's not about to blow his savings on temporary pleasures."

In the meantime, she added, the women could turn to some religious groups conducting awareness seminars on HIV-AIDS. "Caritas does it for the wives and the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) does it with students from maritime schools. Abroad, the AOS meets seafarers as they leave the ship and offers them the services of a seaman's house."

Such efforts were commendable, Cagod said, because the NGOs went where seafarers actually were.

Phones and Bibles

And please, said Anatan, "make sure there's a phone around that we can use to call our families." Keeping in touch with one's family, he added, was the best way to keep away from temptation. "I can honestly say that I've never had another woman while onboard a vessel," the former entrepreneur said. As a Christian, he turned to the Bible to forget or ignore his physical needs when he couldn't be with his wife, he said.

Fuentes, who had worked as a factory worker, a security guard and a hotel cook before boarding a ship, had another strategy: "I always made sure that I only had enough money for a round of drinks when I leave the ship. That way, no amount of amorous advances can pry me off my seat. *Baka mapahiya lang ako, eh.*"

Cagod said he let go of other tempting occasions as well. "The best route to sexual abstinence is a family project," he said. "When seafarers are building a house back home, or spending a lot for school or for someone sick, *pag may pinag-iipunan sila*, they learn self-control. Whatever else you say, the family always comes first."

Chirac to sign job law, but offers compromise

PARIS—FRENCH PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac announced on Friday he would sign a controversial youth job law despite weeks of protests, but promised it would be amended right away to weaken two of its most disputed reforms.

Trade union and student leaders promptly rejected his proposals as insufficient and vowed to press on with their protests, including a nationwide action day next Tuesday.

Even before he spoke, students gathered in Paris and other main cities to continue protests against the First Job Contract (CPE), which will let employers fire workers under 26 without cause during their first two years on the job.

"It is time to defuse the situation," Chirac said in the televised speech, in which he said he understood the concerns of youths who could not find jobs. Youth unemployment is running at 22 percent, high above France's 9.6 percent national average.

His long-awaited speech seemed aimed at striking a balance between Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, who wanted the law applied promptly and in full, and millions of protesters who demand it be scrapped before any compromise could be discussed.

He said he would sign the law but then have amendments passed to shorten the permitted trial period to one from two years and require employers to give a reason for any dismissal.

Villepin pushed the law through parliament last month, arguing France must reform its rigid labor code quickly to fight youth unemployment. Students and workers reacted with the biggest protests seen here in years.

Jean-Claude Mailly, head of the Force Ouvriere union, called Chirac's proposals "incomprehensible and unacceptable." Bernard Thibault of the procommunist CGT union said: "We stick to the call for mobilization now more than ever."

"We were waiting for the president to listen to the message that young people and workers have been sending for more than two months and to withdraw the CPE First Job Contract," said Bruno Julliard, president of student body UNEF.

"And what does he tell us? He lays out the same arguments that we have heard for weeks. We are not more convinced this evening."

BMP Paribas senior economist Dominique Barbet also saw the unrest continuing: "The law has been largely emptied of content but the trade unions, students and opposition just refuse the law altogether so the protests are likely to continue."

In his speech, Chirac said he had heard "the worries that many youths and their parents express" and wanted to respond. *Reuters*

Bush offers quake aid, but warns Iran on nuke bid

AN IRANIAN woman cries over the body of her son killed in an earthquake that devastated the village of Khalegh Ali, 500 km southwest of Tehran, Iran, March 31. The quake left at least 70 people dead. AP

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States has offered aid to Iran after a devastating earthquake but also kept up pressure over Tehran's disputed nuclear program.

President George W. Bush made a point of offering sympathy and assistance while at a North American summit in Mexico Friday.

"We obviously have differences with the Iranian government but we do care about the suffering of Iranian people," he said.

The powerful earthquake struck western Iran, leaving at least 70 dead and 1,265 injured. The area of Brujerd was hit hardest. The earthquake left at least 45 people dead there and another 1,025 people injured.

The United Nations said Friday it was rushing a team of experts to assess damage. Washington offered shelter for 100,000 people.

The state department said Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns telephoned Iran's ambassador to the United Nations to offer assistance, a rare direct contact between the two countries that have had no diplomatic relations for more than two decades.

"Nick offered the condolences of the US government to the people of Iran, the government of Iran for the loss of lives and on behalf of the US government, offered our assistance to the families of the victims," state department deputy spokesperson Adam Ereli told reporters.

The aid would include blankets, plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, water units and temporary shelters for 100,000 people as well as an intermediate grant of 50,000 dollars for nongovernmental organizations, Ereli said.

Iran's ambassador to the UN, Javad Zarif, indicated he would consult with his government before responding, the spokesperson said.

In 2003, the US government sent assistance when an even more lethal quake struck the southern Iranian town of Bam. Tehran refused an offer of aid last year after another earthquake.

The White House also issued a statement from Bush and his wife, Laura, about the quake. "Our thoughts and prayers are with families and individuals who have lost loved ones," they said.

But Bush also renewed US condemnation of the Iranian government's nuclear program which Washington and its allies believe hides an attempt to develop an atomic bomb.

The US leader reaffirmed Washington's view that if Iran gets a nuclear weapon it would be "a serious threat to world security" and urged Tehran to heed international warnings or risk further isolation.

"There is common agreement that the Iranians should not have a nuclear weapon, the capacity to make a nuclear weapon or the knowledge as to how to make a nuclear weapon," Bush said.

"If they want to participate in the international order of things, if they don't want to isolate themselves, they must listen very carefully to what we're saying with unified voice," he said.

The United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany have been holding talks this week on what action to take if Iran ignores a UN Security Council statement issued Wednesday calling on it to halt uranium enrichment in 30 days. *AFP*

First Brazil astronaut enters ISS

MOSCOW—THREE ASTRONAUTS, including the first Brazilian in space entered the International Space Station Saturday after their Soyuz rocket docked with the ISS, according to images from the Russian control center.

The Soyuz TMA-8 carrying Brazilian Marco Pontes, Russian cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov and US astronaut Jeffrey Williams docked automatically with the ISS at 0419 GMT, the control center's spokesperson Valery Lindin said.

Pontes was the first of three to enter the ISS, after the door was opened at 0559 GMT, followed by Vinogradov and Williams.

Traditionally it is the head of mission, in this case Vinogradov, who enters first.

The Brazilian carried his country's flag and smiled broadly as he joined American William MacArthur and Russia's Valery Tokarev, who have been on the ISS since October 2005.

The new crew members blasted off from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Thursday.

Pontes, a 43-year-old Brazilian air force officer, returns to Earth on April 9, while Vinogradov and Williams are set to spend six months on the ISS, the only space station operating since the closure of Russia's Mir orbiter in 2001.

They will prepare for the arrival of a US space shuttle carrying Germany's Thomas Reiter, who will be the first European to make an extended stay on the ISS. *AFP*

Japan launches digital TV on cell phones

TOKYO—JAPAN ON SATURDAY began to watch digital television broadcasts on mobile telephones, in a highly anticipated service that could lead to a new genre of TV programs.

Japan is a frontrunner in the new technology, popularly known as "One Seg," after "One Segment," although South Korea has offered the service since the end of last year.

Handsets have been on the market in Japan for several weeks that are equipped with the service, which can also broadcast programs onto laptop computers, high-end video game machines and other terminals.

The service will be free for now and programming will be the same as on home televisions as mobile operators examine whether One Seg will prove to be popular.

"In the short-term, digital terrestrial broadcasting on mobiles with the same programming as normal televisions will be of little interest for us," Masao Nakamura, CEO of Japan's top mobile operator NTT DoCoMo, said recently.

"But we are getting ready by preparing new specific content for the service that could come into use later when new channels are available," he said.

Mobile operators have lined up agreements with television networks to develop the service.

NTT DoCoMo has tied up with Nippon Television and Fuji Television. DoCoMo's main rival, KDDI, has forged a partnership with TV Asahi.

Subscribers will be able to watch up to nearly three hours of uninterrupted television with a normal cell phone battery, as opposed to about an hour for current analog broadcasts which require more power.

"On a technical level, the service functions well. The image is of good quality," said Pierre Mustiere, a specialist at the consultancy JITEX, or the Japan International Technology and Strategy Experts.

But mobile operators risk losing out if subscribers turn to One Seg instead of pay-to-use Internet on their cell phones, unless the television service cashes in on interactive features such as links to online advertising.

"Nobody knows for now how to measure the value of interactive features," Mustiere said. *AFP*

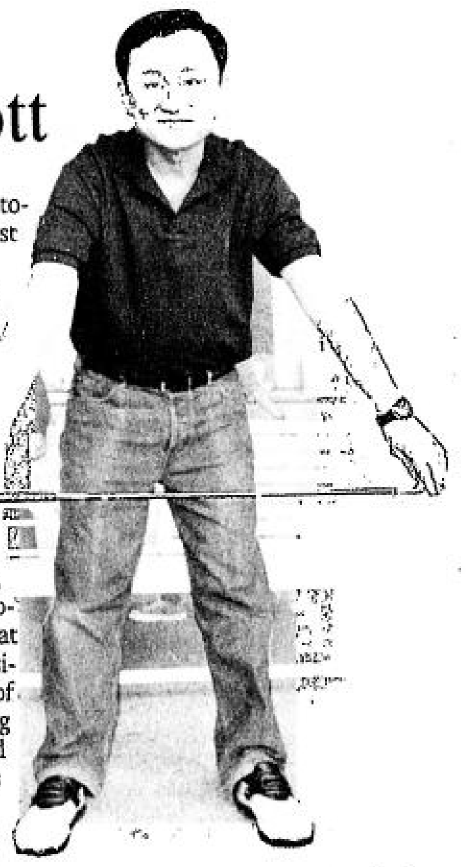
Long mobile phone use raises brain tumor risk

STOCKHOLM—THE USE OF mobile phones over a long period of time can raise the risk of brain tumors, according to a Swedish study released on Friday, contradicting the conclusions of other researchers.

Last year, the Dutch Health Council, in an overview of research from around the world, found no evidence that radiation from mobile phones and TV towers was harmful.

A four-year British survey in January also showed no link between regular, long-term use of cell phones and the most common type of tumor. *Reuters*

Thailand set for vote amid opposition boycott



THAKSIN relaxing ahead of a general election on Sunday. AP

BANGKOK—THAILAND GOES TO the polls Sunday in an election called by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra as a referendum on his leadership, but an opposition boycott has reduced the vote to a one horse race.

Some 45 million people are eligible to cast their votes in the poll, which Thaksin called three years early in a bid to end weeks of mass street rallies set off by allegations that he abused his office for personal gain.

Polling stations are due to open at 8 a.m. and counting will start after the polls close seven hours later. Provisional results are expected to trickle in throughout Sunday night.

But protesters have vowed to continue demonstrating for Thaksin to quit long after the ballots have been counted, angry over a controversial share deal that saw his family make $1.9 billion tax free.

In the absence of any opposition candidates, the biggest challenge to Thaksin in Sunday's vote is the "no vote" option that could be exercised in Bangkok and the troubled south, where anger towards the premier is most fierce.

Thaksin has pledged not to take office if he wins less than 50 percent of the vote, and his critics have called for voters to tick the abstention box in a show of no confidence, saying this could deny Thaksin his majority win.

But Sirirat Choonhaklai, an associate professor in public administration at Bangkok's Mahidol University, downplayed the impact of the "no vote" option, saying Thaksin's support remained strong in the country's north and centre.

Another analyst said few people were likely to exercise the "no vote" and that Thaksin's opponents would most likely just stay away from the polls.

"It takes a lot to go out and vote for no one," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, professor of political science at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

According to Sirirat, a landslide victory would be the best way to end the political crisis, saying a marginal victory would further fuel anti-Thaksin protests. *AFP*

FAMILY photo of the Winkler family of Selmer, Tenn. AP

US town mystified as wife charged in pastor's murder

By Woody Baird

SELMER—MEMBERS OF A church planted flowers Saturday in memory of their slain pastor, while deputies went to Alabama to pick up his wife, who authorities said confessed to shooting him in their home.

The killing Wednesday in Selmer, a town of 4,600 people, baffled friends and church members who knew Matthew and Mary Winkler as a happy, loving couple.

Matthew Winkler was found dead in a bedroom at the couple's home after church members went looking for him when he did not appear for a service at the Fourth Street Church of Christ.

Mary Winkler, 32, was arrested on a first-degree murder charge Friday in Alabama, where she driven with the couple's three daughters, authorities said.

On Saturday, authorities in Baldwin County, Alabama, transferred her to the custody of McNairy County sheriff's deputies who were expected to return her to Selmer later in the day, Baldwin County sheriff's spokesperson John Murphy said.

In Selmer on Saturday, members of Matthew Winkler's congregation planted beds of pansies outside the church in his honor. The flower beds were part of a spring cleanup he had planned.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agent John Mehr said police know why Winkler shot her husband, but he would not disclose the motive except to say police did not believe it was infidelity. He would not comment on whether Mary Winkler had accused her husband of abuse. Court papers offered no hint of a motive.

Matthew Winkler had preached at the Fourth Street Church for a little more than a year. His wife was a quiet, unassuming woman who was substitute teacher at an elementary school, church members said. They were married in 1996.

"Everything we saw belies what has happened," church member Janet Sparks said. "It just doesn't go together. Something is amiss, and we don't know what it is."

Authorities said that the couple's daughters were at the house when their father was shot and that investigators had found the weapon used to kill him.

At a juvenile custody hearing in Alabama on Friday, a judge placed the couple's daughters—Breanna, 1; Mary Alice, 6; and Patricia, 8—with paternal grandparents Dan and Diane Winkler, who live in Henderson, about 20 miles north of Selmer.

"It was important these kids were placed in a loving and nonhostile environment," said David Whetstone, a Baldwin County district attorney.

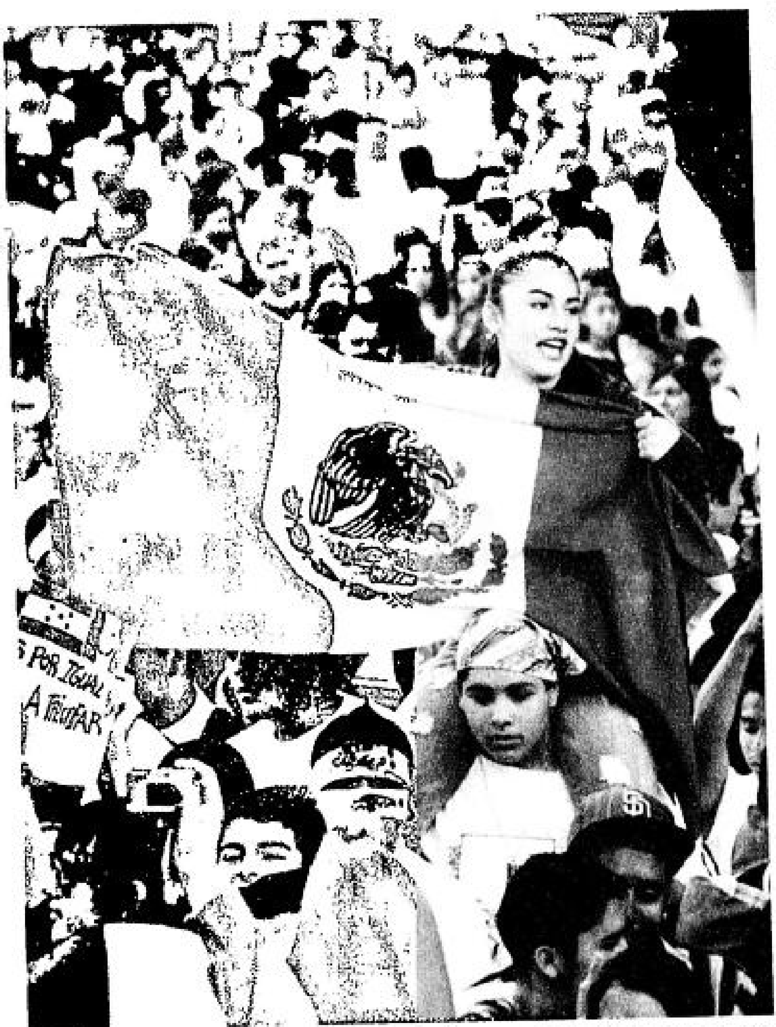
Orange Beach Police Lt. Rusty Roberts said the girls were "extremely sharp, bright children" and that Mary Winkler was very concerned about their well-being. She attended the hearing, but did not speak to reporters. *AP*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Thousands of students protest US immigration reform plans

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—THOUSANDS OF mainly Hispanic high school students boycotted classes Friday and marched through the California city of San Diego to protest plans to criminalize illegal immigration.



PROTESTERS wave flags and cheer before marching through downtown San Diego, California March 31. At right, student Xochilt Martinez, 13, employs also her face to stress a plea.

REUTERS AND AP

More than 1,600 pupils skipped classes in the southern city on the border with Mexico for a fifth consecutive day to protest pending US immigration reform legislation, school officials said.

"We are not criminals," proclaimed placards brandished by some of the demonstrators.

The students, many of them waving Mexican flags, marched in the city center demanding that plans to pass a law that could force the 11.5 million illegal immigrants working in the United States to leave the country.

Police were closely watching the demonstration that followed a week of protests across the United States against the reform bill that is pending debate in the US Senate.

On Monday, more than 36,000 pupils in Los Angeles joined tens of thousands of others across California, Texas and Nevada in staging walkouts from class to protest the proposed crackdown.

Some 500,000 people, mostly Latinos, last Saturday took part in one of the largest demonstrations in recent US history in Los Angeles in a spectacular display of Hispanic people power against the reform plans.

But the protests have largely died down since the beginning of the week.

However the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, Cardinal Roger Mahony, urged students Friday to stay in school instead of taking part in further walkouts amid speculation of a fresh outbreak of major demonstrations.

"There have been further rumors that a possible school boycott would be held on Friday, March 31," Mahony said a statement.

"As one who is deeply engaged in the overall efforts to have Congress pass just and humane immigration reform legislation, I am urging all students in the greater Los Angeles area to stay in school," he said.

The archbishop said that student boycotts did "not produce meaningful immigration reform" and in fact tended to polarize groups in the community and could backfire by building support for tougher legislation.

The US House of Representatives in December passed a bill that would make illegal entry in the United States a crime and heavily penalize employers of undocumented workers, opening the floodwaters of protest in the Hispanic community. *AFP*

Freed reporter assailed US under duress, says father

CARROLL AFP

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS-—Released US hostage Jill Carroll made a propaganda video criticizing US presence in Iraq as a condition for her release, her father told the Christian Science Monitor newspaper on Friday.

Carroll, 28, was seized in Baghdad on Jan. 7, and her translator was shot dead. The freelance reporter for the Monitor and other newspapers was freed on Thursday.

But soon after her release video footage posted on an Islamist website showed her praising Iraq's insurgents, even predicted their victory.

"I think the mujahedeen are very smart and even with all the technology and all the people that the American Army has here, they still are better at knowing how to live and work here, more clever," Carroll said in response to a question.

Asked what she meant, Carroll said: "It makes very clear that the mujahedeen are the ones that will win in the end."

Carroll's father Jim told the Christian Science Monitor newspaper that his daughter was forced to make the video in order to be released.

Jill was "under her captor's control," Jim Carroll told the Monitor. He based his information on a long phone conversation with his daughter on Friday.

"She had been taught to fear" the captors, Jim Carroll said. The captors had not only killed her translator, but said they had already killed another American hostage.

The reporter's father said the abductors "obviously wanted maximum propaganda value in the US. After listening to them for three months she already knew exactly what they wanted her to say, so she gave it to them with appropriate acting to make it look convincing."

In the video Carroll also said that her upcoming release "shows the difference between the mujahedeen and the Americans; it shows the mujahedeen are good people fighting an honorable fight while the Americans are here as an occupying force treating the people in a very bad way."

The newspaper earlier vowed that Carroll would be given every possible assistance to recover after her ordeal.

"We're deeply thankful for the monumental labors that went on in agencies and offices of the United States government, within the government of Iraq and among individuals in Iraq and worldwide," the Boston-based newspaper's board said in a statement. *AFP*

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Sunday SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres** E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: Inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Rain or Shine dumps Hapee

GAMES TODAY (*Olivarez College Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—TeleTech vs Granny Goose
4 p.m.—Magnolia vs Montaña

By Jasmine W. Payo

FLAUNTING ITS LETHAL FORM FROM START to finish, Rain or Shine whipped Hapee-PCU, 66-48, to claim the PBL Unity Cup's solo lead yesterday at the San Andres Gym.

The Elasto Painters cruised to their third straight victory behind Junjun Cabatu, who collected a game-high 18 points and eight rebounds.

Last conference's Most Valuable Player Jojo Tangkay and Gilbert Malabanan also teamed up for 23 points to keep the Painters ahead by double figures for most of the game.

"The supremacy of our big men, it's obvious that's our advantage," said Painters coach Leo Austria. "We also stopped Jason Castro in the first half. If we limit his production to 70 percent, I knew it [would be] enough for us to win in double digits."

Castro, who averaged 23 markers in the last two games, shot 14 of his 17 points in the second half to pace Hapee-PCU.

Montaña will try to join Rain or Shine at 3-0 when it battles Magnolia at 4 p.m. today.

In the second game, Toyota Otis narrowly escaped struggling Harbour Centre, 76-74, to improve to 2-1.

Jonathan Aldave powered the Sparks in the crucial stretch, scoring eight of his 16 points in the final period. Sparks coach Louie Alas, though, wasn't exactly satisfied.

"It was an ugly win, we had 30 turnovers," noted Alas.

Hapee-PCU slipped to 1-2, while Harbour Centre skidded to its third straight loss.

The scores:

First Game

RAIN OR SHINE 66—J. Cabatu 18, Tangkay 12, Malabanan 11, Eman 9, Reyes 4, Ortiguerra 3, C. Cabatu 2, Enrile 0, Orbeta 0, Sagad 0, Alastre 0, Robles 0, Urra 0.

HAPEE-PCU 48—Castro 17, Sanz 11, Espinas 6, Razon 4, Belga 3, Baculi 3, Bucao 2, Guevarra 2, Moreño 0, Gonzales 0, Canlas 0, Nallon 0, Garrido 0.

Quarters: 20-12, 36-21, 48-33, 66-48

Second Game

TOYOTA OTIS 76—Aldave 16, Aban 14, Deveance 10, Bautista 9, Casio 5, Larong 5, Rodriguez 4, Coronel 4, Andaya 3, Daa 2, Cabahug 2, Fajardo 2.

HARBOUR CENTRE 74—Yeo 19, Reyes 16, Tenorio 11, Araña 7, Alonzo 7, Luanzon 4, Maierhofer 4, Chia 2, Coching 2, Gaco 2, Gamboa 0, Lanete 0.

Quarters: 15-12, 31-32, 55-55, 76-74

HARBOUR Center's Robbie Reyes (left) battles for a rebound against Toyota Otis Joe Deveance. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

RP to host World pool in November

By Musong R. Castillo

THE WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP WHICH Efren "Bata" Reyes won in 1999 and duplicated by Alex Pagulayan in 2004 will be hosted by the Philippines this year.

The 17th staging of the centerpiece event in the sport will be played on Nov. 4-12 with a record total pot of $400,000 and the highest champion's purse ever of $100,000.

Only the venue has yet to be decided, according to Yen Makabenta, chair of the board of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines and spearhead of the RP bid to bring one of the world's biggest sporting event here in years.

Macabenta added that the venue will be decided in the next couple of weeks when representatives from the organizing Matchroom Sports and ESPN arrive for inspection of the proposed competition sites.

The Philippine International Convention Center in Roxas Boulevard, the SM Mall of Asia along Diosdado Macapagal Highway and the World Trade Center in Buendia are three of the sites being considered.

The contract for staging the event, which will be run by an outfit headed by Makabenta, is for three years. Taiwan hosted the event the last two years.

Part of the venue requirement is a space big enough to accommodate at least 16 tables aside from a stand that will accommodate a gallery.

"Those are the only things that are certain at the moment," Makabenta told the INQUIRER over the phone yesterday. "Everything is a go and the venue will be determined in the next two weeks."

A press conference to be hosted and managed by ESPN, has been scheduled this Thursday at the Manila Hotel where Makabenta will be joined by the Matchroom representatives.

Wu Ching-chia became the youngest ever winner of the event last year at 16 years old after rallying from 12-16 down to defeat Kuo Po-cheng, 17-16, in the finals at Kaohsiung. Wu won $75,000 for his victory.

Wu succeeded Pagulayan, who joined the country's pool elite after his triumph in 2004. Pagulayan also was second in 2003.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante also came close to winning the event in 2002, placing second to Earl Strickland of the US.

Reyes prevailed over Taiwan's Chang Hao-Ping in the first of five straight staging of the event in Cardiff, Wales, in 1999.

Makabenta said Matchroom and ESPN will take care of putting up the total pot.

Other expenses for holding the event itself will be shouldered by the local organizing group. Makabenta said details regarding this aspect will be announced later.

Tournament format will divide the 128-man starting field into 16 groups of eight players, who will play in a round robin under the alternate break system in the first four days.

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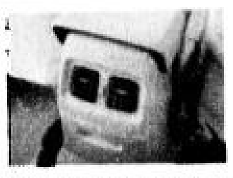

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Aida seals title clash with Lee

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JAPANESE SECOND SEED SHO **Aida displayed the form that made him the world's No. 10 junior player, downing Peng Hsien-yin of Chinese-Taipei, 7-5, 3-6, 6-2, yesterday to barge into the finals of the 17th Mitsubishi Lancer tennis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.**

Aida used his superior skills and speed in repeating his victory over the Taiwanese last year to move into the title match against third seed Lee Hsin-han also of Chinese Taipei.

"Peng had a very good game, but I just happened to play a little better," said the Japanese who will go for his third title here against an opponent ranked No. 17 in the world.

Lee ousted Chinese qualifier Bai Yan, 6-4, 6-4, in the other semifinal match, giving his rival no chance to duplicate his sensational upset win over top seed and tournament favorite Sanam Sing last Friday.

Aida, fresh from a victory in the Genting ITF juniors in Malaysia two weeks ago, also downed Peng in the first round of the 2005 Asia Closed Championship in Bangkok, 6-4, 6-2.

"It's going to be a tough match but I'm ready. I will do my best to win," said Aida, an incoming junior at the Shonan High School in Tokyo who reached the third round of this year's Australian Open Juniors.

Lee, a former member of the Junior Davis Cup team, is eyeing his fourth straight title this year after winning three tournaments in Bangladesh. He has seven singles and seven doubles titles in his junior career.

In boys' doubles, third seed Aida and Fumiaki Kita outlasted sixth seed Martin Kamenik of the Czech Republic and Dylan Sessagesimi of Switzerland, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, to advance in the semifinals against fifth seed Andrew Thomas of Australia and Johnny Hamui of the United States. Thomas and Hamui had earlier stunned top seed Sanam Singh and Jeevan Nedunchezhiy.

Second seed Lee and Peng drubbed Ukraine's Ivan Anikanov and Vladyslav Klymenko, 6-4, 6-2, and will next meet eighth seed Yannick Thomet of Switzerland and Austen Childs of New Zealand, who eliminated fourth seed Artur Chernov and Daniil Arsenov of Russia, 7-5, 7-6 (2).

SUBISHI
LANCER
JNIOR TENNIS C RIONSHIP

SHO AIDA of Japan returns the ball against Peng Hsien-yin of Taipei in the semifinals of the 17th Mitsubishi Lancer Junior Tennis Circuit at the Rizal Tennis Court. Aida won, 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Mamiit, Taino may reprise winning act

WILL THERE BE A REPEAT OF THE sensational tennis tandem of Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino in the coming Asian Games?

The possibility is there according to the Philippine Tennis Association, which confirmed yesterday that the Fil-Americans have already expressed their intention to don the country's colors for the Asiad in Doha, Qatar in December.

Philta vice president Ajay Pathak told the INQUIRER that Mamiit and Taino may be eligible for inclusion in the Asiad roster based on the criteria set by the Task Force Asian Games.

He said Mamiit is ranked eighth, while Taino is sixth in Asian doubles. Together, they are ranked fourth in Asia and are the current silver medalist in the Southeast Asian Games.

The two conspired to secure the men's team gold for the Philippines in the SEAG with Mamiit also claiming the singles title and Taino pairing with Riza Zalameda for the mixed doubles crown.

Among those they are expected to face in Qatar are Asia's No. 1 Mahesh Bhupati and Leander Paes of India, the Thailand pair which beat them for the SEAG gold and another combination from Chinese Taipei, added Pathak. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

MAMIIT

TAINO

Federer versus Ljubicic in final

ROGER Federer easily advances after defeating David Ferrer in the semifinals.

KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA—EVEN WITH one brief lapse, Roger Federer needed only 59 minutes to beat David Ferrer 6-1, 6-4 and reach the Nasdaq-100 Open final on Friday.

"I didn't give him much chance," Federer said. "I'm playing so well this week, it was tough for him from the start."

The result was hardly a surprise: Federer has advanced to the final in his past 11 tournaments, the longest such men's streak since John McEnroe made 12 consecutive finals in 1984.

Federer will bid for his second successive Key Biscayne title on Sunday against sixth-seeded Ivan Ljubicic, a Croat who advanced to his first final in the United States by beating No. 3 David Nalbandian 6-1, 6-2.

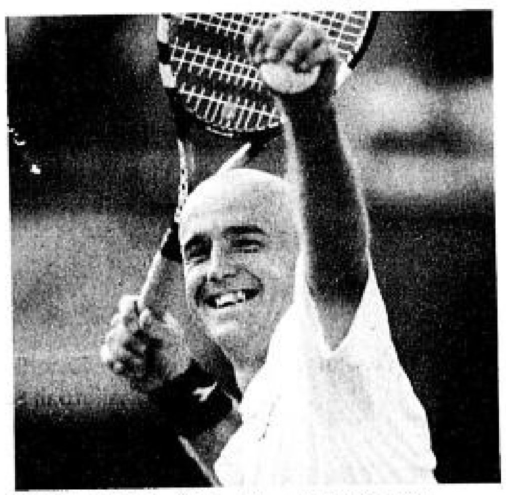
Federer has won his past six meetings against Ljubicic, although three times they split sets. Overall Federer leads 9-3.

"Every time when I have to play against him, it's like, 'OK, maybe this is the one,'" Ljubicic said. "But it's never happening. A couple of times I was very close. I really just hope to be at least close on Sunday."

Ljubicic is the first Croat to reach the men's final since Goran Ivanisevic in 1996. Ivanisevic woke up with a stiff neck the morning of his final and was forced to retire against Andre Agassi.

"He told me yesterday, 'If you win (in the semifinals), be careful with your neck,'" Ljubicic said. "He said, 'Sleep on the same pillow and don't open the windows.'"

The women's final on Saturday will be an all-Russian matchup between No. 4 seed Maria Sharapova and No. 12 Svetlana Kuznetsova, each bidding for her first Key Biscayne title. *AP*



IVAN Ljubicic of Croatia celebrates his victory over David Nalbandian.

REUTERS

Buncio, Saulog top Endurocross series

YOUTHFUL RIDER MAICO BUNCIO AND MULtititled veteran Jovie Saulog shared the spotlight with scintillating victories in the first leg of the 2006 Endurocross series at the Timberland Heights Raceway in San Mateo, Rizal, recently.

Buncio scored a twinkill in the KP5-organized event, ruling the Beginner Open Production and the Local A categories in style. He scored a perfect 50 in the Beginner Open as he topped both the first and second motos that were worth 25 points.

It was practically the same result in the Local A division, as he swept the two motos for a perfect 50, beating the challenge of Jun Mendoza (42) and Danny Felias (40) in the enduro festival backed by Filinvest Land Inc., WL Foods and Chadarakobi Production.

Saulog (50), on the other hand, fended off the challenge of fellow motocross great Jolet Jao.

KP5 president Nani Pazcoguin said the next leg is on May 28. For details, call 0922-3258413, 0922-3258411, fax: 932-3296, email: kp5@pldtdsl.net and kinetic_production@yahoo.com

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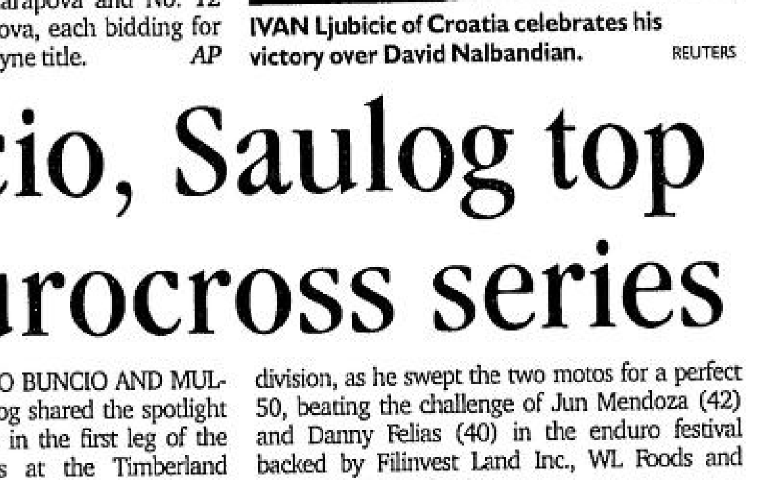
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Native Prince (3), Tervalac (4), Fernan Ikaw Pa Rin (2), Dixie Dash (1)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Harry Pa Rin (3), Bahrain (7), Bear Cat (1), Bigtime Bonjing (2), King Of Africa (9)
Race 3—(Tri)—Blazing Maldini (1), Desert Fly (3), Earl Gray (2)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Play It Again (9), Habagat (4), Heart Of The Wind (5), Mandalay Bay (8), Magic Ewan Ko (3)
Race 5—(Tri)—Movahead (1), Mamaya (5), Maria Makiling (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—King's Dominion (4), Don Exequiel (6), Tigres In Action (1), Hello Junior (5), Amazing Firenze (9)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Fast Reason (1), Bellin Bellin (3), Hellfire (8), Native Land (5)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Love And Money (2), St. Emilion (7), Ocean Dignity (1), Naman Naman/Pasirit (6)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Arctic Desert/Puppy Dog Tail (5), Rhyme And A Prayer (1), Adam's Call (7), Mighty Mare (4)
Race 10—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Speed Bullet (9), Overture (8), Smile Of The Wind (5), Dow Jones (4), Speed Admiral (1)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Don King (1), Mr. Bonjing (3), Stratosphere (5), Saint Bernard (2)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Prince Valiant (6), Bunker Buster (4), Quant Je Puis (6), Step On The Gas (1), Uncle (9)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Dazzling Affair (12), Scarlet Velvet (10), Hukom (1), Nico's Incharge (2), Romario (8), Road Runner (9)



JOHN ALVAREZ: Rising star of karting.

Alvarez, Garcia power CRG's kart dominance

CEBU RACING GROUP, LED BY last year's Cadet Karter of the Year John Alvarez and Jess Garcia, had a blazing start in the kickoff of the 2006 Shell Helix Superkarting Series recently at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

The 11-year-old Alvarez, also the reigning Junior Karter of the Year, rallied from the tailend of the six-man pack to emerge runner-up in the newly introduced ROK Junior class.

He dominated the qualifying run and the first heat but a battery connection failure forced his kart to stall in the second heat, almost curtailing his title bid for the Cebu Racing Group backed by Paramount Insurance, Prestige Cars BMW, Castrol and Thunder Energy Drinks.

But Alvarez put his disappointment aside and focused on the final race. He passed one karter after another and finish second with a time of 14:33.368, just 4.647 seconds behind winner Juha Turalba.

"It was a good but challenging start," said Alvarez.

Garcia, on the other hand, emerged the first winner of the new ROK class clocking 14:55.601.

NO HINDRANCE TO TENNIS: Ronnie Oquinalda, a member of the RP paralympics team, practices inside UP Diliman's tennis court. Oquinalda and his teammates hope that they can join the Malaysian Open this September. JOAN BONDOC

Air21 scuttles SLR in Isabela

By June Navarro

YANCY DE OCAMPO STOOD tallest as Air21 streaked past Sta. Lucia Realty, 113-100, last night in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup On Tour at the Josefina T. Albano Sports and Cultural Center in Cabagan, Isabela.

Mocking the defense by the Realtors' skyscrapers, the 6-foot-9 De Ocampo posted a personal milestone of 20 points and 22 rebounds to power the Express to their third victory in seven games.

De Ocampo kept 6-6 Dennis Espino and 6-9 Marlou Aquino busy inside the paint, allowing the rest of the Express to stage a huge run in the final three minutes.

From a 98-96 edge, the Express buckled down to work with a 12-1 assault starring Nino Canaleta and Wynne Arboleda, who nailed a triple each.

The Express also held the Realtors scoreless in a span of almost three minutes, giving up only a single field goal courtesy of Nelbert Omolon when the outcome was already beyond doubt.

The Realtors, who stayed at the cellar, missed seven free throws while the Express rallied and absorbed a third straight defeat and fifth overall in six games.

Meanwhile, Barangay Ginebra hopes to keep its new formula going when the Kings test the Alaska Aces today at the Araneta Coliseum. The Kings snapped a three-game slide Friday, which coach Siot Tanquingcen attributed to a sudden change of strategy.

"It's normal when teams adapt a new system," .said Tanquingcen after the Gin Kings subdued the Coca-Cola Tigers Friday night. "You will struggle at first and lose your composure. I hope we could build something from our last victory,"

In the other game, San Miguel Beer collides against Talk 'N Text in what could be an acid test for the Phone Pals following their spectacular victory over the Gin Kings a week ago.

GAMES
TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4:10 p.m.—Bgy. Ginebra vs Alaska
6:35 p.m.—San Mig vs Talk 'N Text

Pumar new WBC Int'l titlist

THE YOUNG FIGHTER GIVEN THE least chance of bagging the crown ended up having the last laugh as wiry Gabriel Pumar of Lapu-Lapu City took the World Boxing Council International minimumweight title yesterday with a seventh-round knockout of title-holder Tshepo Lefele at the Wembley Arena in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Pumar knocked down the South African four times, the last two in the seventh round that forced referee Andy Smale to stop the 12-round bout.

But Benedict Suico, the other Filipino in the "Parade of Champions" card, absorbed a unanimous decision loss to WBC International flyweight champion Monelisi Myekeni of South Africa in another title bout.

Suico fought with a fever due to tonsilitis, according to manager Rex "Wakee" Salud.

Pumar, who improved his record to 9-0 with six KOs, is the country's second WBC International titlist after Manny Pacquiao, who holds the international super featherweight crown after his revengeful conquest of Erik Morales of Mexico last January.

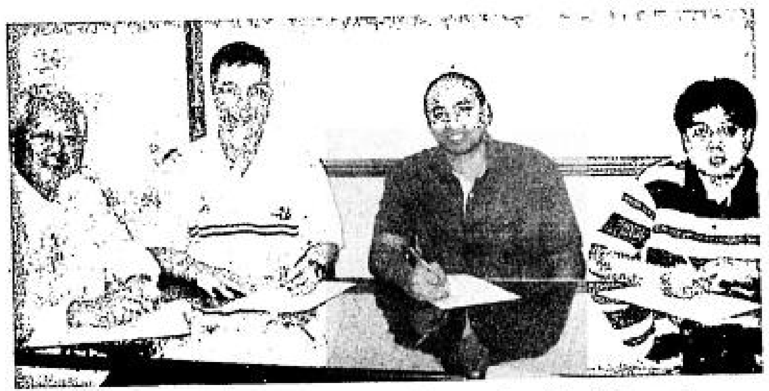
The International division is for boxers ranked outside of the top 10 list. With his win, over the WBC No. 12 Lefele, Pumar is expected to crash the top 15 ranking next month.

Pumar knocked down the South African for the first time in the fifth round, but referee Andy Smale ruled it a slip. Lefele again went down in the sixth frame as he grew tired from Pumar's onslaught. Two more knockdowns in the seventh finally convinced the referee that it was over for the South African.

Salud said a grand welcome organized by Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Arturo Radaza awaits Pumar when he and his team arrives today at 12:30 p.m. in Cebu after a brief stopover in Hong Kong.

Pumar's relatives and fans are also expected to meet him at the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

"He really proved that underdogs are dangerous when taken for granted. Pumar also makes history as the first Filipino to win a major crown in South Africa," said Salud. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*



COACH E NEW BRANCH: San Beda Rector-President Anscar J. Chupungco, OSB (left) and treasurer Benedict M. Fabia, OSB (right) sign an agreement with Coach E Basketball School founder Eric Altamirano and International Basketball Academy president Xavy Nunag for the holding of eight Coach E classes this May at the San Beda Alabang, which joins established venues clubsixfifty in Libis and The Zone in Bel-Air Makati. Contact numbers are 631-1195 or 0921-7562639 and e-mail address iba_phil@yahoo.com.

Bautista battles Mexican May 20

UNDEFEATED REY "BOOM BOOM" BAUTISTA, WHO recently signed up with the Golden Boy Promotions of Oscar De la Hoya, will take on dangerous Mexican Hugo Dianzo in a non-title fight on May 20 underneath the Marco Antonio Barrera-Rocky Juarez showdown at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Miguel Angel Gonzalez, in an interview with Notimex, announced that Dianzo is ready to take on the 19-year-old ALA Boy Bautista following the cancellation of his Feb. 24 fight with ex-world champ Ivan Hernandez. The fight will be Bautista's first under the GBP banner. The Bohol-raised Bautista (19-0, 14 KOs) holds the WBO Asia Pacific bantam title, but would most likely relinquish the belt as he now plans to campaign in the heavier super bantam class. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

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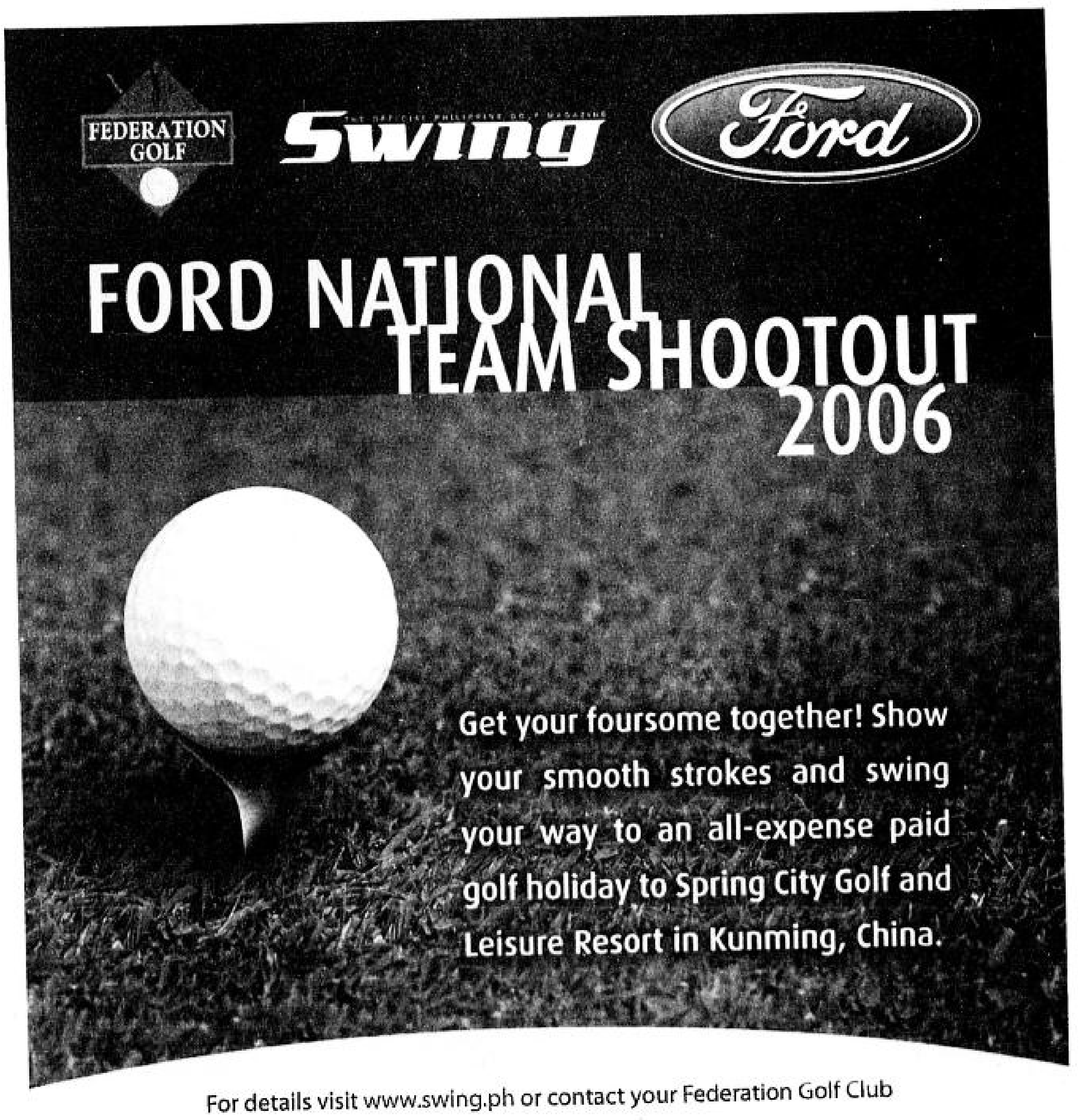

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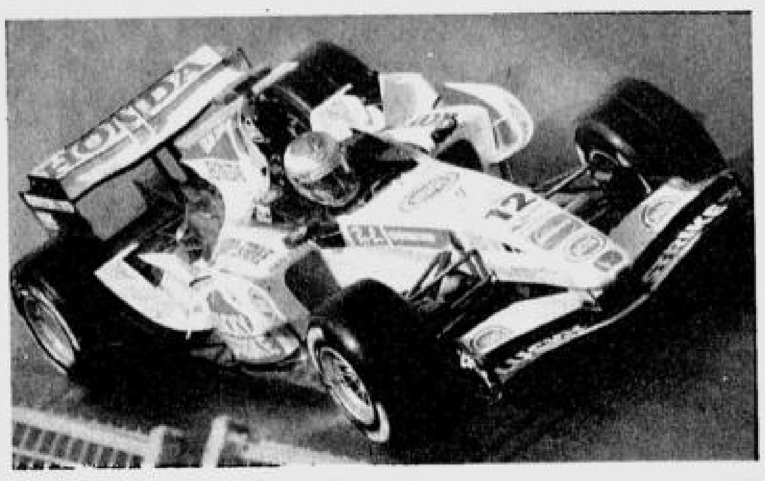
April 1 & 3 - Tagaytay Highlands Int'l. Golf Club, Tagaytay
April 2 - Eastridge Golf Club, Inc. Binangonan, Rizal
April 4-9 - Sta. Elena Golf Club, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
April 5 - Negros Occidental Golf & Country Club
April 6 - Forest Hills Golf & Country Club, Inc. Antipolo City
April 7 - Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club, Carmona, Cavite
April 8 & 9 - Camp John Hay Golf Club, Baguio
April 9 - Iloilo Golf & Country Club, Iloilo
April 8 & 9 - Valley Golf & Country Club, Cainta, Rizal
April 8 - Wack-Wack Golf & Country Club, Mandaluyong
April 9 - Manila Golf & Country Club, Forbes Park
April 22 - Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club, Gen. Trias, Cavite
April 22 - Canlubang Golf & Country Club, Canlubang, Laguna

Stage 2: Satellite Elimination in each district
(Luzon, North, South, East, West, and Visayas/Mindanao)

Stage 3: Grand Finals

Jenson pushes right buttons, takes Aussie GP pole


JENSON Button negotiates a turn. AFP

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—JENSON Button kept his head during a hectic qualifying session that threw up a little of everything Saturday to earn pole position for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix.

The Honda driver gained his third career pole position and first since last year's Canadian GP.

It was also the first pole for a full Honda team since 1968, although the Japanese motor company has shared many as an engine supplier.

But it wasn't easy.

"I'm still shaking with the excitement. It was really difficult to stay calm," Button said. "It's just so tricky out there with the conditions. It was very very windy."

Button said the Melbourne weather made qualifying chaotic. It was dry on Friday, cool and wet on Saturday morning, then cool and dry in the afternoon.

"Manic. The whole day's been manic with the weather," Button said.

The two red flags that stopped the sessions didn't help the situation, nor did the increased traffic on the track when the sessions resumed.

Then there were the regular problems with the cars.

"We really struggled with grip. So to finally get this pole position is fantastic," Button said.

Renault's Giancarlo Fisichella, who won two weeks ago at Malaysia, and Alonso, winner of the opening race at Bahrain, were second and third respectively.

Button's time was 1 minute, 25.229 seconds on the 5.3-kilometer (3.3-mile) Albert Park circuit. Fisichella's time was 1:25.635 with Alonso at 1:25.778.

Alonso, who qualified seventh and fourth in the last two races, before finishing second and first, was content with third on the grid for Sunday.

McLaren-Mercedes drivers Kimi Raikkonen and Juan Pablo Montoya were fourth and fifth with Ralf Schumacher sixth in a Toyota.

It was a bleak day for Ferrari.

Michael Schumacher, who was trying to break the career pole positions record he shares with Ayrton Senna at 65, didn't make it to the final session. He was eliminated by being among the six slowest drivers of the second session and will start the race from 11th.

His time of 1:26.718 was just behind the last qualifier, Jarno Trulli of Toyota in 1:26.327. *AP*

Nets clinch playoff slot; Sixers, Suns club foes

ATLANTA—THE NEW JERSEY Nets edged the Atlanta Hawks, 91-88, on Friday to clinch a playoff spot with their 11th successive victory.

The Nets, who are on the third-longest winning streak in franchise history, held their opponents to under 90 points for the 10th time in the past 12 games and won their sixth straight road game.

New Jersey (43-28) lead the Philadelphia 76ers by 10 games with 11 left to play, leaving them one win shy of the Atlantic Division title.

"We played one of our worst games of the streak," New Jersey's Jason Kidd said. "We weren't that much better than they were tonight. On defense we got some stops when we had to."

Atlanta led by as many as 11 points in the first quarter and kept the game close throughout, with the score tied 84-84 with less than a minute remaining in regulation time.

Vince Carter then tipped in his own rebound to put the Nets ahead by two with 42.6 seconds left to play. Kidd then made five of six free throw attempts in the dying seconds to preserve the lead over the Hawks, who have lost five of their last six.

In Toronto, Leandro Barbosa scored 28 points as the Phoenix Suns beat the Raptors, 140-126.

In Orlando, Jameer Nelson scored 27 points as the Magic beat the Dallas Mavericks, 108-99.

In Charlotte, Andres Nocioni scored 24 points as the Chicago Bulls beat the Bobcats, 113-107.

In New York, Allen Iverson scored 47 points as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Knicks, 117-112.

Chris Webber added a season-high 34 points and 12 rebounds for the Sixers.

In Oklahoma City, Marc Jackson scored 24 points as the New Orleans Hornets beat the Memphis Grizzlies, 107-102.

In Auburn Hills, Richard Hamilton and Tayshaun Prince both scored 25 points as the Detroit Pistons beat the Milwaukee Bucks, 112-105.

In Houston, Yao Ming scored 38 points and had 11 rebounds as the Rockets beat the Washington Wizards, 105-103.

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points and the Nuggets overcame poor play in the first three quarters to beat Minnesota, 106-94.

In Los Angeles, Elton Brand and Sam Cassell scored 22 points apiece to lead the Clippers past Utah, 106-91.

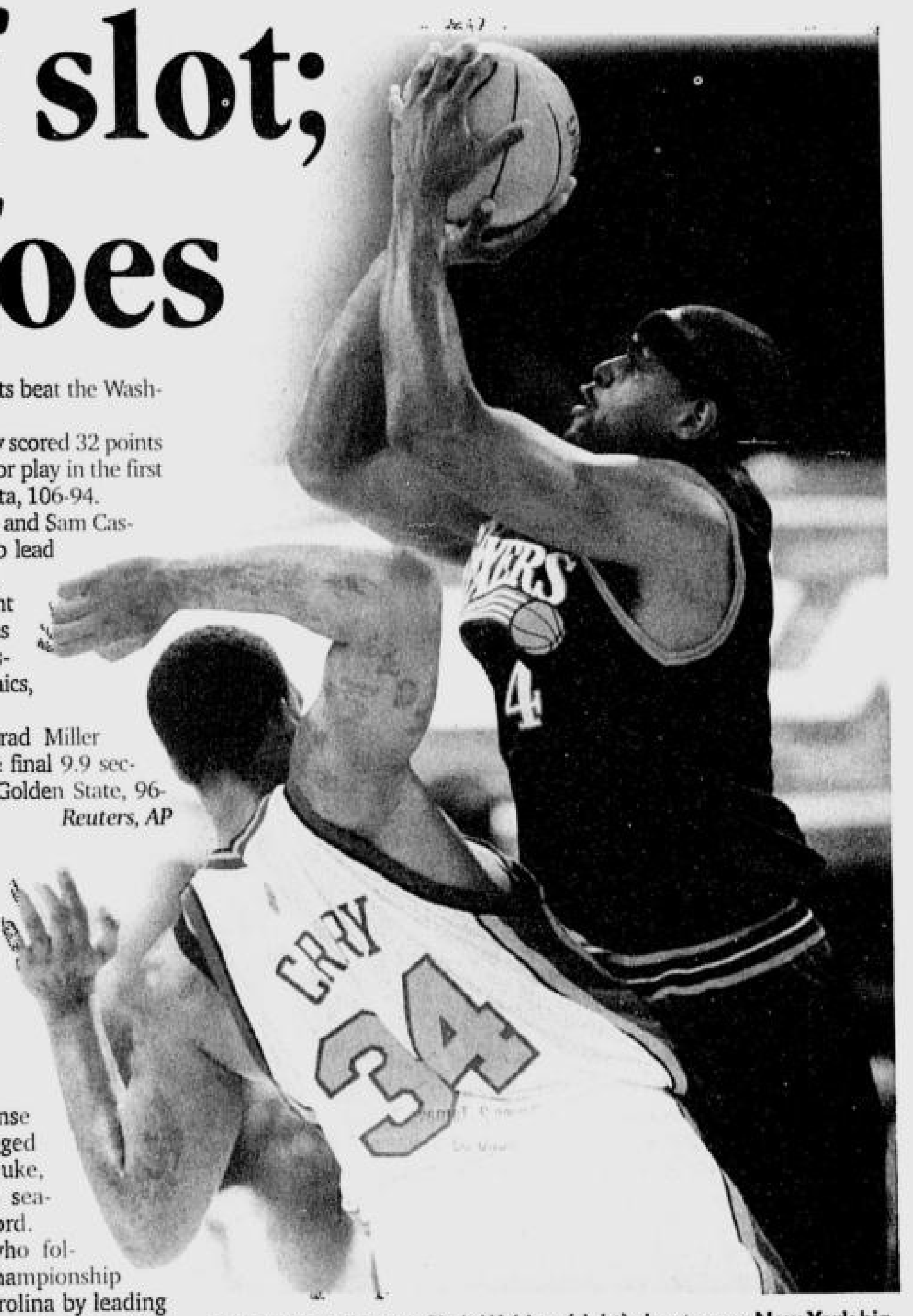
In Seattle, Kobe Bryant scored 43 points and the Los Angeles Lakers used an impressive second half to rout the Sonics, 106-93.

In Oakland, California, Brad Miller made four free throws in the final 9.9 seconds as Sacramento nipped Golden State, 96-93. *Reuters, AP*

NBA on TV:

SOLAR SPORTS—Indiana vs Mailwaukee (10 a.m.)

RPN-9—Indiana vs Milwaukee (10. a.m.); Miami vs Cleveland (9 p.m.)



PHILADELPHIA star Chris Webber (right) shoots over New York big man Eddy Curry at the Madison Square Garden in New York. AP

Redick named AP's best

REDICK REUTERS

INDIANAPOLIS—JJ REDICK, WHOSE 3-point shooting led Duke to a No. 1 ranking for most of the season, was selected the US college basketball player of the year by The Associated Press on Friday.

The guard was second in the United States in scoring this season, capping his career as the Atlantic Coast Conference's all-time leading scorer and Division I's most prolific 3-point shooter.

Redick is the record sixth Duke player to win the award, with five winners since 1992. The award was first presented in 1961.

Redick averaged 26.8 points this season, shooting 47 percent from the field, 42 percent from 3-point range and 85 percent from the free throw line. A tireless worker on offense and an extremely intense player, he averaged 37.1 minutes for Duke, which finished the season with a 32-4 record.

Roy Williams, who followed a national championship season at North Carolina by leading an inexperienced team to a top 10 finish, was selected coach of the year. *AP*

Masters lore littered with memorable shots

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA—THEY CAN stretch Augusta National beyond the county line, or move the tees downtown, as Jack Nicklaus once jokingly suggested. They can add a pond and remove a bunker, plant trees and cut them down.

But there is one thing about the Masters that doesn't change.

Somewhere along the way to a green jacket lies a shot so incredible, so unforgettable, that it becomes part of the legacy of the Masters, a signature moment on a stage built for such drama.

Gene Sarazen put the Masters on the map with his "shot heard 'round the world," a 4-wood from 235 yards on the par-5 15th that went into the cup for a double eagle and carried him into a playoff in 1935.

And then there's Tiger Woods.

His 2 on the scorecard last year came with a 60-degree sand wedge from a much smaller distance, about 30 feet from behind the green to the hole, a shot that traveled twice that length by the time it climbed up the ridge on the par-3 16th', stopped like a school bus crossing railroad tracks, then made a slow, tantalizing trek toward the cup.

It stopped on the lip two full seconds, and history pulled it into the hole.

"I was never thinking it had a chance," said Steve Williams, Woods' caddie who stood by his side, crouching, hoping for one more turn, his heart stopped like the thousands of fans surrounding the green and millions watching on TV.. "It was slowing down, and I said, 'I can't believe it's going to be short.' But for some reason, it kept going. It was just amazing. You're just about to go forward and give whatever your reaction you're going to give, and then it stops.

"And then, boom!"

Sarazen and Woods provided bookend memories, 70 years apart, shots that define the magic of the Masters.

No telling what this year will bring, even on an Augusta National course that again has been strengthened by adding 155 yards on six holes in club chair Hootie Johnson's attempt to keep the course current with the times.

WOODS

Woods is the defending champion, joining Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer as the only players with at least four green jackets. He is remembered for the U-turn chip on the 16th green, but he is more proud of the 3-wood to the fairway, the 8-iron to 15 feet and the birdie putt to beat Chris DiMarco in a playoff.

The Masters starts on Thursday without Nicklaus, who competed at Augusta National for the last time a year ago. Some say the longer course will make improbable a back-nine charge such as the one Nicklaus delivered 20 years ago when he shot 30 to win his sixth Masters.

But there will be something mystical that other majors rarely offer.

Seems like there always is.

Larry Mize chipping in from 140 feet to rip the heart out of Greg Norman. Fred Couples' ball rolling back toward Rae's Creek on the 12th hole, stopped by a blade of grass. Nicklaus making a 45-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole, as Tom Weiskopf and Johnny Miller watched dejectedly from the tee box.

"You can feel there is an aura seeping out of the ground," DiMarco said. "You remember Jack making that putt up the hill, and you remember Davis (Love III) chipping up the hill. I try to forget Tiger chipping in."

Woods' miracle chip for birdie might embody what the Masters brings, but it also speaks to his own legacy as the dominant player of his time, on pace to be the greatest champion ever.

Woods returns having won the Masters and British Open, and finished second at the US Open and in a tie for fourth at the US PGA Championship. Woods already has won three times this year, including Dubai on the European tour.

And he remains a big favorite at Augusta National, perhaps more so this year at the Masters because of the additional length and because none of the six players behind him in the world ranking has won this year.

And because of moments like that chip adding to Woods' legend, players wonder what he'll do next. *AP*

Mickelson stretches BellSouth lead to six

DULUTH, GEORGIA—DEFENDING CHAMPIon Phil Mickelson shot a 65 as he continued to attack the Tournament Players Club at Sugarloaf course at a record pace in the BellSouth Classic on Friday.

One day after matching the course record with a first-round 63, Mickelson was 7 under in the second round to set a tournament record for 36 holes at 16-under 128.

Mickelson said his emphasis was to carry some steam into the Masters next week. He said he isn't thinking about setting a US PGA scoring record.

"I think that the way that the course is continually getting more difficult, I think that's unrealistic," Mickelson said, adding "What you're talking about is not in my mind, no."

The US PGA record for most strokes under par through four rounds on a par-72 course is 29 under by Joe Durant in the 2001 Bob Hope Classic.

Mickelson is on pace to finish at 32-under 256. The US PGA record low total for 72 holes is 254 by Tommy Armour III in the 2003 Texas Open.

"I think at the moment Phil is the only one really doing the fireworks," said Jose Maria Olazabal, who shot an 8-under 64 in the second round. "I think he's the one that really maybe has that record in his sight."

There was a long procession of low scores again on Friday, when 79 players at par or better survived the cut.

Those chasing Mickelson, including Olazabal, spoke as if the tournament's defending champ was distancing himself from the field in Tiger-like fashion.

Even with an impressive two-day total of 135, Olazabal still trails Mickelson by seven.

JJ Henry matched Mickelson's 65 on Friday to move into second at 134—a total that would have led in five of the previous nine years. Instead, Henry is six shots off Mickelson's lead. *AP*

Ochoa keeps 4-stroke Kraft cushion

RANCHO MIRAGE, CALIFORNIA—Lorena Ochoa went from firing at flags to grinding over every shot as winds swirled under hazy clouds and made the Kraft Nabisco Championship feel more like a major on Friday.

All that mattered was keeping her lead, and a 1-under 71 was enough to do that.

"It's amazing how easy things were yesterday, and today I worked really hard for my 1 under," Ochoa said. "I was pleased with my round. I really like my position."

Coming off a 62 in the first round, which tied the lowest score ever in a major, Ochoa twice scrambled for par and pieced together enough birdies to maintain her four-shot lead over 16-year-old Michelle Wie.

Ochoa was at 11-under 133.

Wie, playing in her first tournament in five weeks, caught the brunt of the cool, gusty conditions and did well to shoot a 71. She had a three-putt bogey on her fourth hole (No. 13), then held herself together with par-saving putts of 4 feet on the next two holes.

She didn't miss her first green until No. 6—her 33rd hole of the tournament—and saved par, then nearly holed out a chip on the eighth as she finished with five straight pars.

She will be in the final group with Ochoa, her first time in that spot since she was in the final threesome in the last round of the Kraft Nabisco in 2003 at age 13. Wie shot 76 that day and tied for ninth.

Karrie Webb, inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame last November, provided the spark by holing a 7-iron from 152 yards for eagle on the 15th hole, stuffing another 7-iron into 10 feet on the next hole and shooting a 68 to finish at 6-under 138, along with Seon Hwa Lee, who shot her second straight 69.

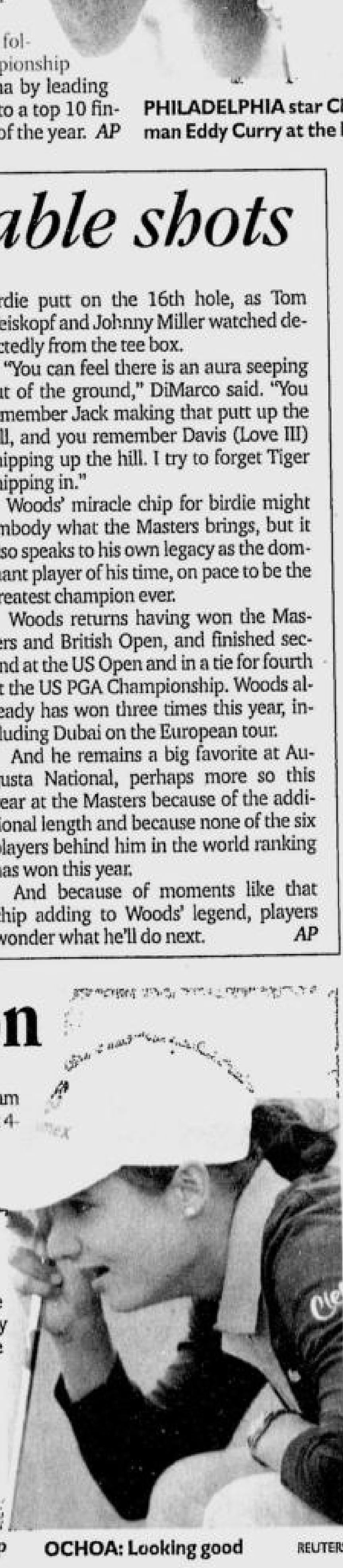
Paula Creamer outdid Annika Sorenstam again and shot 1-under 71, leaving her at 4-under 140.

Sorenstam sputtered again in the first women's major of the year, twice three-putting for bogey on her way to an even-par 72 that left her 10 shots behind.

She won last year by eight shots at Mission Hills and got halfway to the Grand Slam, then set that as her primary goal for this season. But this wasn't the start she had in mind.

"I'm playing good enough, but it's got to happen," Sorenstam said.

None of the early starters were able to do anything that made Ochoa worry. When the 24-year-old Mexican stepped to the first tee, she still had her four-shot lead over Wie and no-one else was within six shots. *AP*


OCHOA: Looking good REUTERS

From BI detention cell to hospital for Graham

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE ONE-WEEK DETENTION has taken a toll on his health.

Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim was brought to the Metropolitan Hospital in Tondo, Manila, Friday night due to high blood pressure and chest pains.

"The doctors said stress is one cause," said Lim, who is expected to remain in the hospital for further medical tests.

The Bureau of Immigration arrested Lim last March 24 based on an earlier ruling that the longtime BAP official is a citizen of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Lim remains in the custody of the BI at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig, despite a temporary restraining order on his deportation.

The 49-year-old Lim also has a pending case at the Court of Appeals since December.

"The CA asked Immigration last Wednesday to explain why a warrant of arrest was issued when I still have a pending case," said Lim. "They have until next week to explain."

Last Thursday, Lim was recommended for confinement after a medical checkup at the BI office in Intramuros, Manila, showed he had an irregular heartbeat.

But he was brought back later in the day to Camp Bagong Diwa, where he continued to issue statements supporting BAP's bid for readmission to the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Aside from the POC issue, BAP president Joey Lina has requested the world basketball federation (Fiba) on Friday to "set aside or rescind" its Memorandum of Understanding with the POC regarding the formation of a new cage body.

"Mr. Lina is continuing the fight," said Lim.

M. Lhuillier nips Mantawi

MANDAUE CITY—THE M. LHUILlier-Cebu City Jewelers bested the Mantawi Traders, 93-90, in overtime to grab the lead in the Visayas Division of the ML Kwarta Padala Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) First Conference at the city sports complex here.

Peppery point guard Woodrow Enriquez topscored with 24 points, but it was bull-strong Enrico Llanto who made the biggest impact as the Jewelers coasted to a 2-0 start.

Lanto finished with 20 points, including nine of the team's last 11 points in regulation and four in overtime that gave the Jewelers of businessman/sportsman Michel Lhuillier the lift over the Traders.

With time winding down to the last 14.9 seconds and M. Lhuillier up at 80-78, Mantawi's Kim Calo pierced the middle for a layup, but missed his attempt. Glenn Yuson grabbed the offensive rebound and passed the leather to Sevilla, who sank the equalizer, 80-all, with a second left, sending the game into overtime.

Sevilla opened the extra five-minute period with a breakaway layup off a steal from Enriquez for an 82-80 Mantawi lead, but that proved to be the Traders' last hurrah as Aldrin Ocañada and Llanto presided over a searing 12-2 run to push M. Lhuillier ahead by eight, 92-84, with only 59 ticks left.

N. Cotabato cagers spoil Iloilo's debut

ILOILO CITY—EDUARDO ALLADO Jr. got back at his old team Friday night as Gov. Manny Pinol's North Cotabato Braves spoiled the debut of the Iloilo City Warriors, 95-83, in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the USA gym here.

Allado, high school teammate of Purefoods star James Yap and an ex-Warrior, scored nine of his team-high 14 points in the payoff period to lead the Braves to their second win in three games.

Allado added four rebounds, two assists and two steals while rookie Ryan Regalado shot 13 points as the Braves matched Valencia's record in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

The Warriors of Mayor Jerry Trenas and Iloilo Basketball League led 28-23 in the first period after dropping a 13-0 bomb. But the Braves' Anselmo Dagatan and Regalado combined for 12points in a searing 16-0 run to race to a 70-53 lead. They never looked back.

The closest the Warriors came of the Braves after that was at 63-70 following a 10-0 spurt sparked by Eldrin Senierez.

"Edu (Allado) was pumped up coming into the game. He wanted to make a good show before his family and friends." Said North Cotabato coach Buboy Tanigue.

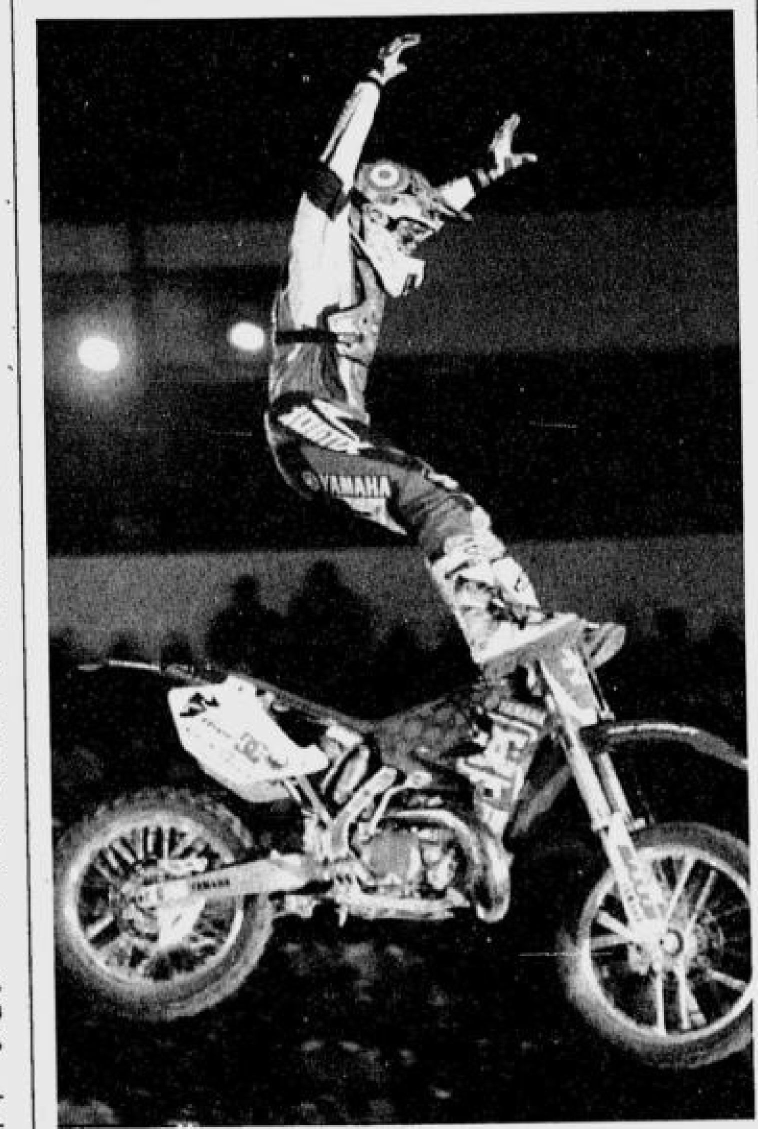
Senierez led all scores with 27 points, while teammate Ruel Balgos had 14 points and 11 boards.

The scores:

N. Cotabato 95-Allado 14, Realado 13, Martinez 9, Culdora 8, Ligue 8, Dagatan 8, Cabanog 8, Binas 6, Ciar 6, Del Norte 6, Reyes 2, Tamayo 2, Etrata 1, Sansaet 0

Iloilo 83-Senierez 27, Balgos 14, Sencil 10, Leonida 10, Bautista 7, Antenor-Cruz 6, Ganzon 5, Sucaldito 2, Sina-on 2, Lima 0, Ogunsaya 0, Onarce 0, POral 0

Quarterscores: 23-28, 54-51, 77-69, 95-83



GRAVITY DEFIER: Nate Adams of the US performs during the freestyle motocross show "Red Bull X Fighters" in Mexico City's bull ring, March 31.

REUTERS

Alienation

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE PAPERS SAY JOEY LINA WALKED OUT of the stakeholders' meeting because Joey resented the renaming of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) into Pilipinas Basketball.

If true, I say, what's in a name?

A rose by any other name still smells sweet.

A president winning by fraud still reigns like a real queen.

A person stealing one peso or a million bucks still qualifies, either way, as a thief.

But if only for the sake of argument, the name BAP can't be used anymore for reasons of dignity and propriety.

If I may remind Joey, the name BAP has long been sullied after it got itself expelled last year by the Philippine Olympic Committee's general assembly for various offenses against the Olympic movement. To have it resurrected would be an insult to the intelligence of the 35 or so NSA presidents who had voted for its expulsion.

You don't resurrect a dead horse when discussing new directions unless you want retrogression instead of progression.

Why Joey Lina can't look, refuses to see, "through a glass onion" up to now, why that really boggles the mind.

If they say Joey Lina is now a villain because he was one of five stakeholders tasked by the POC to restore order in basketball, I can only shake my head. Look, had he not walked out from the fifth session of the Summit of Five, we might well be on the road to getting readmitted into the good graces of the World Basketball Federation (Fiba) hitch-free.

Isn't that what everybody wants, the Fiba lifting our suspension so that we can resume anew our quest for honors abroad, starting with the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, in December?

Indeed, I find it ironic that of the five - Noli Eala of PBA, Chino Trinidad of PBL, Jun Capistrano of UAAP, Fr. Vic Calvo of NCAA and Joey Lina of BAP - the one who caused all this trouble in the first place tried to be on the offensive instead of being, at the very least, on the humble side of things.

What has become of Joey Lina?

Joey Lina, I feel, is having himself misled by elements out to do more harm than good - to him and to Philippine basketball.

In a letter he said he sent to Patrick Baumann, the Fiba secretary general, Joey now wants the Fiba to rescind its Memorandum of Understanding with the POC mandating for a formation of a new basketball body in place of the BAP. Joey also asked the Fiba to lift the country's basketball suspension (cheers!) and allow the BAP to sort out its problems at home (jeers!). His reasons:

One, the POC and the other stakeholders refused to recognize the BAP as the governing body of basketball in the country.

Puzzling, indeed! How can the POC and the stakeholders still recognize the BAP when it has been expelled from the POC roster since last year yet?

Two, the MOU required a consensus and not a majority decision in resolving a dispute.

How can there be a consensus when Joey walked out of the summit? When the four remaining stakeholders put up Pilipinas Basketball, that was it. Was the vote of all four not consensus enough?

Three, Pilipinas Basketball was formed with only four major stakeholders based in Metro Manila instead of "a balanced and countrywide representation from all levels of the sport."

Oh, well, all four—PBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA—truly represent not only the whole spectrum of the basketball nation but even Asia and the world as well. Why, because it is from these associations that we pluck out the best players of the land to battle for honors year in and year out for the country abroad. With these four associations, what more can one ask for? Of course, once we recapture Fiba's blessings, the merging of all basketball groups like the NBC of Tac Padilla will be forthcoming and a mere formality.

I pray that Joey Lina sees the light—soonest. He's a good man. Take it from me, his compadre. I'd hate to see him alienated the rest of his life.

That'd truly hurt me.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

Kimoni Academy listing starts April 16

HAVING MADE ITS PRESENCE FELT IN the local badminton industry, Kimoni Philippines stretches its network further with the launching of the Kimoni Badminton Academy designed to improve the skills of Filipino players.

Kimoni Philippines Chief Executive Officer Billy Lim-it, the main force behind the rise of the Kimoni brand, said that the early start of registration for the academy on April 6 will give them the chance to evaluate participants and get them acquainted with the program.

The academy, according to Lim-it, offers structured badminton training sessions and under a competent teaching staff led by Martin Araneta, former coach of the Philippine team who will serve as the institution's training director.

The training venue is inside the Kimoni building at 39 Bingo Street, Sta Mesa Heights, Quezon City.

The school offers training courses for the amount of P3,600 each to beginner, intermediate or advanced enrollee. Each trainee will get 12 training sessions with free shirt, free use of Kimoni court and shuttlecocks and will be awarded with a Kimoni Badminton Academy Certificate after the training's completion.

Inquiry can be coursed through Luigi So, Kimoni Philippines' Director, at 414-5258.

Meanwhile, Davao City made a record-breaking tourney when close to 400 badminton aficionados joined the third leg of the Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006 held at 4play Badminton Court recently.

Seven teams from the cities of Tacurong, Davao, General Santos, Bukidnon, Cagayan De Oro, Tagum and Kidapawan disputed the events' various levels with categories on doubles for men's, ladies', mixed', juniors' 16-20 years and juniors' 15 years and under. Winners of each level and category advance to the Battle of the Champions that will be held in Market! Market on July 22 and 23, with more than a million pesos in cash and Kimoni products at stakes.

Nikka Sotelo, a member of Kimoni Philippines' board of directors, said that Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006' next stop will be at Tacloban Extreme Badminton Club in Tacloban City on April 8 and 9.

SPORTSWATCH

Bitoon wins Pichay tune-up tilt

TOP SEED International Master Richard Bitoon forged a quick draw against fellow IM Ronald Bancod in the sixth and final round to emerge champion in the President Prospero Pichay Jr. Invitational Tune-Up Games Saturday at the Syncopados Music Bar in Mabini, Malate, Manila. Bitoon and seventh seed NM Nick Nisperos tallied 5.0 points apiece, but Bitoon took the title after the Bucholz tie break was applied. They, however, split the combined prize of P5,500 for the first and second placers. Nisperos beat former Olympian member WNM Loreshyl Cuizon. The event was sponsored by newly elected NCFP president and Surigao del Sur representative Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. Bancod scored 4.5 points to finish in a tie for 3rd to 8th places with 12-year-old FM Wesley So, NM Almario Marlon Bernardino Jr., NM Efren Bagamasbad, WIM Cristine Rose Mariano and Computer Deuterium of Filipino inventor Ferdinand Musca. Mariano, an Air Force enlisted personnel, received P5,000 for topping the women's class.

NM Marlon Bernardino

Amoranto leads semis qualifiers

AMORANTO Table Tennis Club led two others in the semifinals of the Uni-Orient Table Tennis Tournament recently at the Green Paddle Table Tennis Center in Caloocan City. The aces from Amoranto won all their 11 games in the 12-team round-robin to emerge heavy favorite to rule the event which attracted come of the country's best players. Leading Amoranto's charge are Beverly Villar, the country's No. 7 lady player and national age-group champions Michael and Adrian Rodolfo. Philippine Cultural High School, its lone loss inflicted by Amoranto, also made it to the semis with a 10-1 slate. Three-time Palarong Pambansa veteran Alvic Chua spearheads PCHS' title-drive. Chua is supported by Jayson Jaquilmo of various Filipino-Chinese Amateur Athletic Association Table Tennis Tournaments. Marclyn gained the third slot in the semifinals with an 8-3 win-loss slate, while Xavier (6-4) and Green Paddle (6-5) are still in the hunt for the fourth and final semis slot.

Beach volleyball on Golf Power

GOLF Power Plus features this afternoon the first set of the championship match between Adamson University Team 1 and College of St. Benilde Team 1 in the 1st Samsung Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge at the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig City. Golf Power Plus is aired at 3 p.m., Sundays on RPN 9 and on ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. It is supported by Samsung, Tanduay Rhum, PCSO, Hope and Mapecon. Fistorama follows at 3:30 p.m. The episode features 6-rounders between Mike Tumbaga and Benny Palen at 126 lbs and Efren Huesca and Ernesto Fontanilla at 112 lbs.

Big showdown at SJC April 5

VISAYAS and Mindanao cockers will square off with their Metro Manila counterparts in the LCC Davao 5- cock derby on Wednesday, April 5, at the San Juan Coliseum. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Hosts Dori Du of Davao and Louie Cua of Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) have invited 50 participants in this showdown of sabong heavyweights. Among the participants are Nitoy Nasser, Pepe Tan, Bebot Uy and Rey Castaneda of Davao, Elmer and Dodong Codilla, of Ormoc, Wakee Salud of Cebu, Rep. Butch Pichay of Surigao, Primallion Brothers of Zamboanga, Chito Tinsay of Iloilo, and Nene Abello of Negros Occidental. Metro Manila will be bannered by sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Jun Topacio, Gov. Ito Ynares, Ric de Guzman, NCA World Championship winner R. Pineda, Lito Orilaza, William Co, Gerry Ramos, Jet Fernando and Jingco Brothers.

Heritage Cup third leg April 4

THE SHOWDOWN of high–caliber breeders resumes at the 20,000 – seat Araneta Coliseum when the third leg of the Philippine Heritage Cup 5- bullstag derby series unfolds on Tuesday and Thursday, April 4 and 6. To be fielded are bullstags with 2005 Bakbakan wingbands and are accredited by the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB). 'These bullstags are winners in the 2005 Bakbakan 9- stag derby, so a tough fight is expected,' said Rene 'Boy' Diaz of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA). Submission of weights is tomorrow at the Araneta green gate, from 2-9 p.m. Call 9113101 and 9112928 for info. Heritage Cup's second leg champions (March 21 and 23) were Raffy Campos, Henry Tan, Joey Rebadavia, Nelson Uy, Billy Abne, Alwyn Sy, Romero Yu, Tony Galang and William Chia.

Las Piñas cockfest slates 50 fights

THE SUNDAY special 3-cock derby sizzles at 7 p.m at the Las Pinas Coliseum today with 50 encounters on top. Host of the event, with P300,000 in cash prize going to the winners, is the Bodyguard group headed by RC Sayaman. Entries must be submitted from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and participants may call 873 – 1040 and 874 -3910 for details. The highly awaited Big Fight 5- cock derby, with an entry fee of P33,000, comes on April 8 with Gerry Ramos as host. Ramos, a fixture in bigtime derbies with his regular entry names like Blue Blade Joke and Against All, said more than 30 entries have confirmed their participation.

NCA 7-cock derby at Roligon

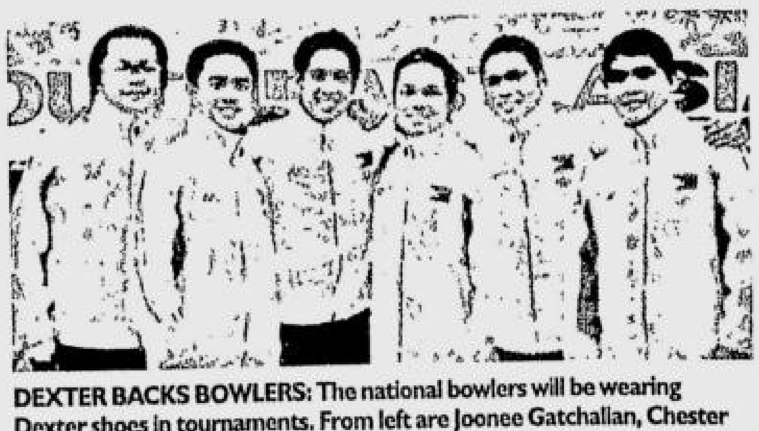
THE FIREFLY Group and Amboy Manlapaz of the National Cockers Association are hosting a 7-cock derby on April 4 and 6 Tuesday and Thursday at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Aside from the entries of big names in the NCA as Danding Cojuangco, Ito Ynares, Rudy Albano, Iggy Arroyo, Ronnie Puno, Butch Pichay, Alex Escalona, F. Berin, Arman and Manny Santos, Elan Nagano, Boyet Joson, Ric de Guzman and Rene Medina of San Francisco, California, USA; Jingo brothers, Jet Fernando and Edu Manzano.

Pagcor, PCSO back Fearless Fighting

THE FEARLESS Fighting Championships (FFC) has drawn corporate and government backers as it braces for the highly anticipated showdown among fighters from all disciplines in the most gripping mixed martial arts event ever to be staged here. Pagcor and PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office) have thrown their all-out support to the event unfolding April 7 at the Metrowalk complex in Ortigas Center. Other sponsors are Revicon, Tanduay Rhum, Smart, Motolite, Red Bull, Superb Security and Partas Bus Line. Alex Lopez, promoter a FFC, said admission is free.

Clark hosts CSI racing 4th leg

THE PHILAMLIFE Cycling Search Invitational (CSI) Criterium Race shifts to high gear next week when the fourth leg of the circuit is held April 8 at the parade grounds of Clark Field, Pampanga. Close to 300 bets in four divisions are expected to start at 8 a.m. Clark Dev't. Corp. president Antonio Ng and Frank Madlangbayan, manager of CDC customer service, will grace the event. Call 241-0415 or 241-0418.



DEXTER BACKS BOWLERS: The national bowlers will be wearing Dexter shoes in tournaments. From left are Joonee Gatchallan, Chester King, Tyrone Ongpauco, CJ Suarez, Biboy Rivera and Markwin Tee.

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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Atienza backs RP Open softball

PHILIPPINE SOFTBALL GOT A BIG boost yesterday when Manila Mayor Lito Atienza pledged the city government's full support behind the revival of the National Open Men's and Women's Championships.

Filomeno "Boy" Codiñera, executive vice president of the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines (Asaphil), said the Open, in mothballs the last four years, will stage a grand comeback next month with the country's premiere city as host.

"We deeply thank Mayor Atienza for his genuine concern for the sport, which I know has always been close to his heart," said Codiñera. "I still remember that, during our time, he would always be at the Rizal Memorial ballpark watching our games."

The revival of the event was proposed by Codiñera and supported by four of nine active members of the Asaphil board in a bid to improve the performances of the Philippine Blu Boys and Girls which according to Codiñera have been declining.

Asaphil vice president for Luzon Antonio del Monte, VP for Western Visayas Greg Jimena, director for Mindanao Joaquin "Boy" Sarabia, and director for Central Visayas Marino Tancinco also acknowledged Atienza's support.

In last year's World Men's Championships in New Zealand, the RP Blu Boys performed poorly, winning only two games. The two-time Asian champions also lost an abbreviated game in last year's Asian Men's championships to Japan by 7 runs.

In the last Southeast Asian Games, the Blu Boys also suffered a rare loss to Indonesia before recovering to win the title. The Blu Girls also dropped a match to Thailand in the biennial event after dominating the sport for 17 years.

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MY Games inaugural rites today

FG, PSC chief invited

THE MANILA YOUTH Games (MYG) unfurl today at 5 p.m. in colorful and festive opening rites at the Rizal Memorial Track Stadium.

The usual parade of athletes and dance demonstrations will be spiced up with a cheering competition, acrobatic show, taekwondo drills and a fireworks display to usher in the week-long multi-event competition featuring the city's best under-17 athletes.

ATIENZA

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza leads a host of city hall luminaries and representatives from the city's 897 barangays and 130 private and public schools in opening the event. Invited to grace the opening were First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, Games and Amusement Board (GAB) chief Eric Buhain and Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair William Ramirez.

Over 10,000 athletes and an estimated 15,000-strong audience will converge at the Rizal oval.

Atienza will also honor Manila's sports greats led by legendary coach Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan and Eduardo Pacheco.

The MY Games, organized by the Manila Sports Council (Masco) under chair Arnold "Ali" Atienza, will serve as a qualifying event for members of Team MayniLA to the 2nd MY Games National Invitational in October.

The event is presented by Converse with support from the PSC, Pagcor, San Miguel Corp., Super Ferry, Montaña Pawnshop, Globe Telecoms, Milo, Air21, IntrASports, and Concept MoversInvitational.

The Invitational will pit the finest athletes from the capital city against their counterparts from other local government units nationwide.

Asian 9-ball Tour qualifying slated

THE QUALIFYING ROUND FOR the Enerva International Asian 9-ball Tour Ladies Championship gets underway on April 24-25 at Paeng's Skybowl in Robinson's Galleria, Mandaluyong City.

Sixteen slots are up for grabs in the event organized by RP billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and sanctioned by the Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports and the Billiard and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP).

Among the local seeded players are 2005 SEA Games double gold winner Rubilen "Bingkay" Amit and fellow national team members Iris Rañola, Mary Ann Basas and Johanna Dee.

The event will be aired live on Solar Sports.

AMIT: Seeded

The main draw will include the top female players from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan.

Some of the Asian superstars expected to join are reigning back-to-back world champion Ga Young Kim of Korea, Zhou Mengmeng of China and Akimi Kajitani of Japan. For details, call 896-9940. *Marlon Bernardino*

Tour de Vera April 7

THE ANNUAL BAYAMBANG, Pangasinan bikefest dubbed Tour de Vera will be held on April 7.

A total of P31,000 in cash prizes, trophies and medals will be at stake.

The race will traverse the towns of the third district of Pangasinan twice with a total distance of 150 km.

The event was organized by Bayambang Mayor Leo de Vera Jr. in conjunction with the celebration of the Bayambang town fiesta. It's exclusively for amateur cyclists with a maximum of 60 participants.

ENTERT NMENT

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

FAP starts screening for Luna Awards

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IN PREPARATION FOR ITS ANNUAL LUNA Awards in May, the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) has begun screening the short-listed films prior to the final selection of nominees.

FAP executive secretary John Suarez explained that nominators were narrowing down the number of semifinalists and that the final list would soon be submitted to the general membership for voting.

The nominators include directors Celso Ad. Castillo, Elwood Perez and Mel Chionglo; screenwriters Lualhati Bautista and Jose Carreon; cinematographers Shayne Clemente and Eduardo Cabrales; editors Edgardo Vinarao and Ron Dale; production designers Manny Morfe and Edgar Martin Littanua; musicians Willy Cruz and John Lesaca; and sound men Jose Climaco and Rolly Ruta.

Director general Leo Martinez told INQUIRER Entertainment, "The cited works will be trimmed down to five finalists in 12 categories by the end of April."

Topnotchers

Among the cited works are both mainstream and independent digital films.

Topnotchers are mainstream releases—Regal and Good Harvest's "Blue Moon," with 16 citations (nine for performances); Star Cinema's "Nasaan Ka Man," 12, and "Dubai," 11; Canary's "Kutob," 10; and Regal's "Ako Legal Wife," 10.

The four digital films that received citations are: ufo pictures' "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" with seven citations; Brillante Mendoza's "Masahista," four; Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Mga Pusang Gala" and Paolo Villaluna and Ellen Ramos' "Ilusyon."

These four digital films were shot on mini-DV and blown up to 35mm film for theatrical release.

Actors in the digital movies stand out on the short list: Nathan Lopez for Best Actor, JR Valentin and Ping Medina for Best Supporting Actors ("Maximo"); Coco Martin for Best Actor and Jaclyn Jose for Best Actress ("Masahista"); Irma Adlawan for Best Actress and Ricky Davao for Best Actor ("Mga Pusang Gala"); and Jaycee Parker for Best Actress ("Ilusyon").

Auraeus Solito ("Maximo") is being considered for Best Director, along with Joel Lamangan ("Ako Legal Wife" and "Blue Moon"), Cholo Laurel ("Nasaan Ka Man"), Erik Matti ("Exodus"), Mark Meily ("La Visa Loca"), Rory Quintos ("Dubai"), Jose Javier Reyes ("Kutob"), Tony Reyes ("Enteng

FAP/A2-4

EDDIE Garcia, Dennis Trillo and Christopher de Leon in "Blue Moon," with 16 citations

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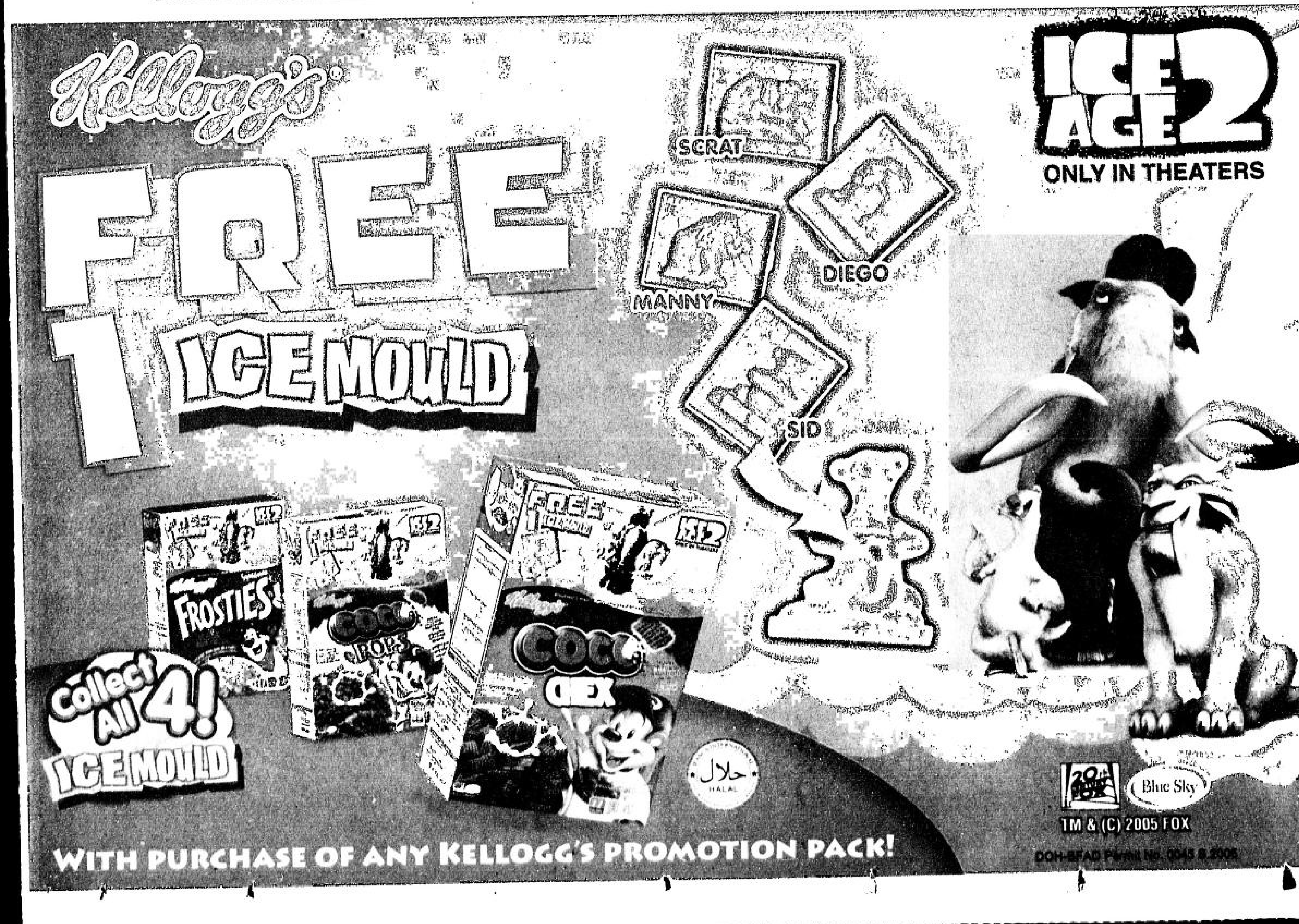
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SHARON Stone goes for broke.

Boring, laughable in spite of all that sex

REVIEW

IF NOTHING ELSE, "BASIC INSTINCT 2" may solidify Sharon Stone's title as contemporary queen of high-end trash.

Often luridly laughable in its action, dialogue and huffy-puffy sexual imagery, this belated sequel to the 1992 guilty pleasure that launched Stone's career at least spares no expense in fashion, sets, cinematography and other technical trappings.

"Basic Instinct 2" looks like filet mignon with satiny bearnaise sauce artfully accompanied by herbed new potatoes and a pretty parsley floret, but it goes down like ground chuck left festering in its own juices under the sun a few days.

If Stone looked anything less than hot, which she does, "Basic Instinct 2" would be sad as well as tawdry, because it's always sad when someone tries to relive past glories if they no longer have the goods. Lean, firm and alluring, Stone clearly has not passed her femme-fatale expiration date yet.

A fair number of fans of the original may check it out, but the sequel is no more than a guilty piffle, good for occasional guffaws over its absurd language and some of Stone's predatory posturing, but mostly boring, despite all the sex.

Strangely, Stone is at her most erotic in the opening sex scene, the only one where she's fully clothed. Her black-widow crime novelist Catherine Tramell has moved from San Francisco to London, where she continues to mess with any XY-chromosomed members of the species unfortunate enough to cross her path.

At the start, Catherine's racing through London in her sports car while being pleasured by her doped-up companion, a British sports star. Stone's heaves and gasps are the most sexually honest moments in all the movie's rather goofily unpleasant fornication scenes.

Then director Michael Caton-Jones ("Scandal," "City by the Sea") plunges us into the over-the-top world of filmmaker Paul Verhoeven and screenwriter Joe Eszterhas, the sleaze-purveyors extraordinaire of the original "Basic Instinct." Catherine's high-speed escapade ends with a literal bang, her passenger winds up dead, and our anti-heroine again is a prime suspect for murder.

Replacing Michael Douglas, who played the San Francisco detective Catherine seduced and degraded in the first movie, is David Morrissey as Michael Glass, a criminal psychiatrist assigned to evaluate her mental state.

Unlike Douglas, who has a gift for playing characters stable on the surface but squirrelly underneath, Morrissey's Glass is a rock at the outset, a man so on his game that it's just silly how easily and grotesquely he falls under Catherine's spell.

Bodies pile up as Catherine messes with the heads of Glass and the people around him, including his mentor (Charlotte Rampling, squandered in a throwaway role) and a Scotland Yard detective (David Thewlis, who manages to flesh out a dry part with quirky humor that often makes him the most interesting presence on screen).

Fantastic costumes

Other than some substantive roles on British television, Morrissey has been a bit actor or supporting player at best in such films as "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" and "Hilary and Jackie." The stodgy blandness he exudes in "Basic Instinct 2" is not likely to put him on any leading-man short lists.

But if Irishman Liam Neeson ever does a movie requiring a long-lost English cousin, Morrissey could handle the part. The two actors share a passing resemblance.

Stone is costumed fantastically, though Catherine's backless dresses and skirts slitted thigh-high are such temptress stereotypes, the outfits provoke as many laughs as the vulgar exchanges in Leora Barish and Henry Bean's screenplay.

And Catherine's surrounded by the splendor of London, the filmmakers focusing on the city's modern architectural baubles and framing the characters in gluttonous luxury.

Stone again goes for broke as Catherine, playing the dragon lady with as much catty, black-hearted gusto as she did the first time. Yet while Stone's preserved well enough for the part physically, the thought that Catherine's still stuck in her pathetic little games of conquest all these years later is kind of sad.

David Germain, AP

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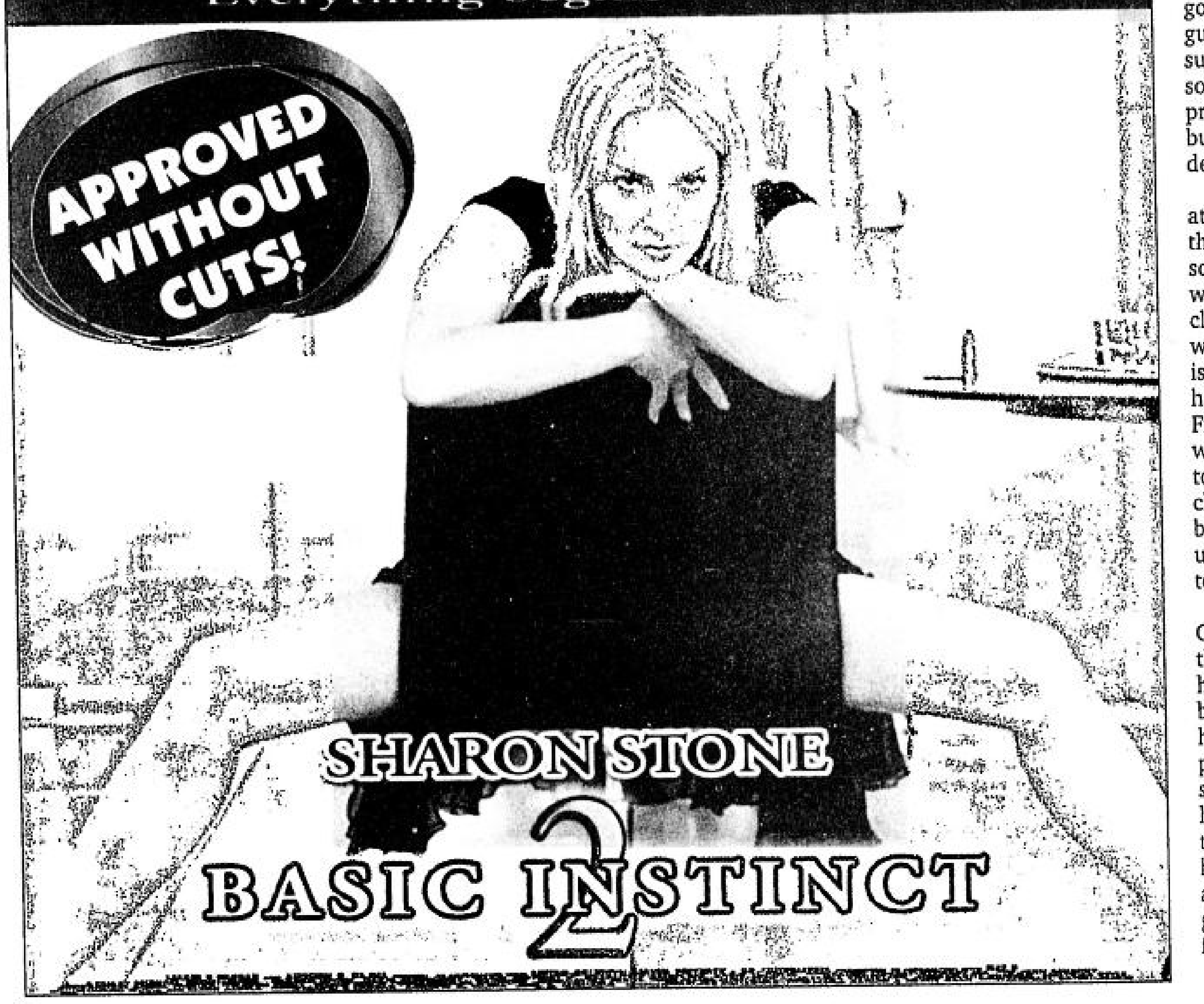

DANTES and Calzadc

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REVIEW

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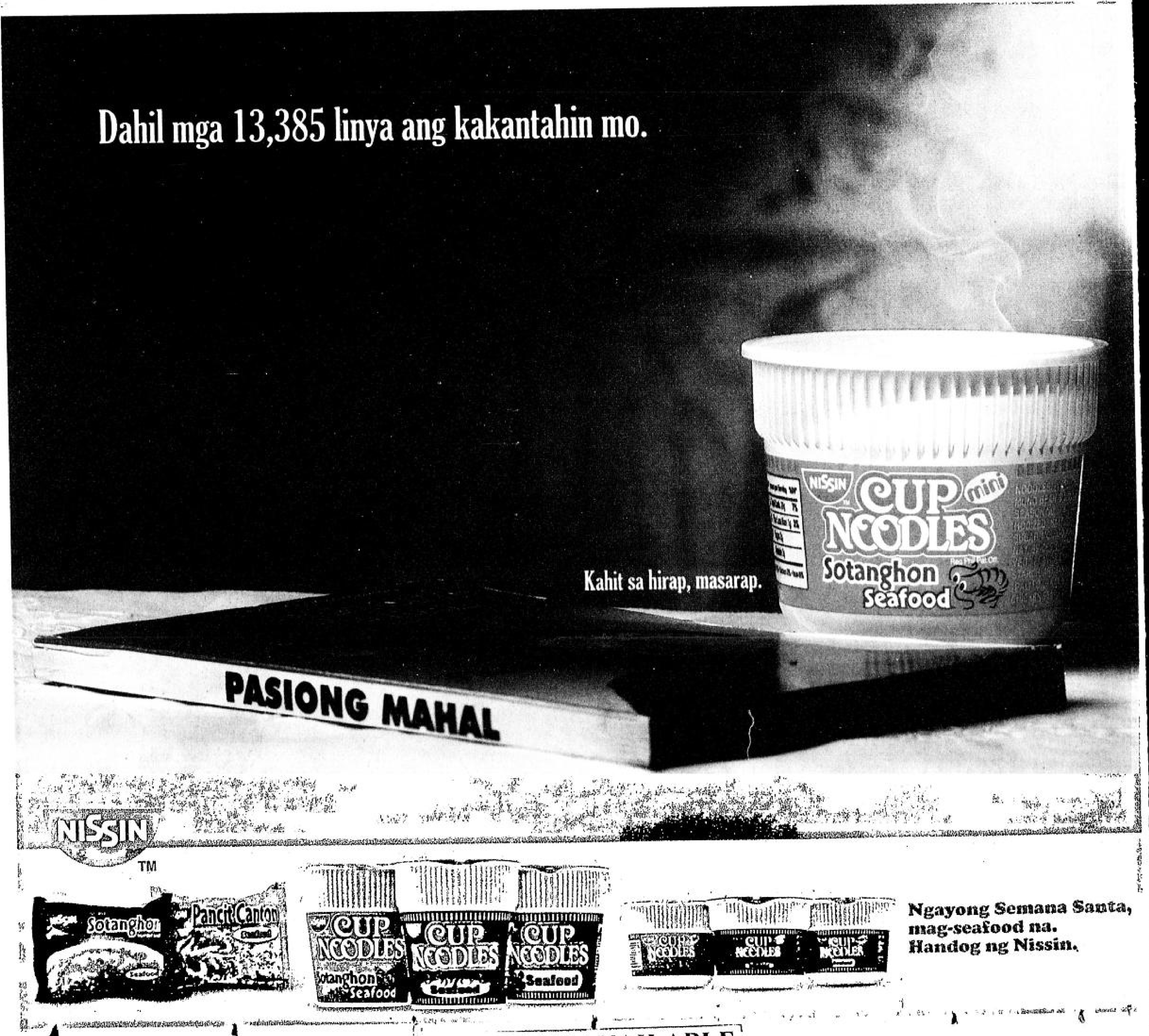

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in a love story where the lovers never meet.

nents of Love’ ve departure ‘kilig’ movies

By Paul Daza
Contributor

GMA FILMS’ NEW LOVE STORY, “MOMENTS OF LOVE,” is a brave effort to inject something new into the typical Pinoy romantic movie. Often, such movies are content to show how a man and a woman meet, fall in love, bicker repeatedly, then finally unite for good as the theme song blares in the background. Stolen kisses, stolen glances and rifts are the staples of the familiar "kilig" movie, the most profitable genre in contemporary local cinema.

With “Moments of Love,” the filmmakers step out of the mold. Director Mark Reyes works from a story by Annette Gozon-Abrogar and a screenplay by Gina Tagasa in which the lead characters, played by Dingdong Dantes and Iza Calzado, don’t even meet because they live in different time periods. She’s engaged to a heartless lout (Paolo Contis) in the year 1957; he’s a loveless yuppie in the year 2006. Aided by a thunderstorm and a magic telephone, Calzado and Dantes cross oceans of time to converse from the same provincial house.

Risk worth it

The story evokes Hollywood flicks like "Somewhere In Time" and “Frequency.” “Moments” also recalls a wonderful local movie directed by Rowell Santiago starring Judy Ann Santos, Wowie de Guzman, and the late Nida Blanca called "Luv Text," in which time travel was a pivotal story element. But because that film was a box-office dud, it took years before another producer decided to again test non-commercial waters.

Apparently, the risk was worth it. “Moments Of Love” is reportedly a moderate hit. How gratifying it must be for the filmmakers to know that viewers were challenged, not turned off, by the innovations.

Technically, “Moments” is a mixed bag. Many shots are beautifully lit and artfully composed, but marred by an annoying flicker that runs throughout the movie. Several close-ups of the leads are unforgivably out of focus. Audio quality is also wildly inconsistent. The actors’ voices are easy to hear in some scenes but inaudible in others. And once again, there is a tendency to play the theme song too loudly during “eureka” moments.

The decades-spanning dialogue sounds right for the most part, but the screenplay is lazy in its approach to Iza Calzado's wealthy fiancé, played by Paolo Contis. He’s written as a two-dimensional creep with no redeeming traits, cut from the same cloth as Kate Winslet’s wealthy fiancé (played by Billy Zane) in “Titanic.”

And couldn't the script be more inventive with the device used to prove to Iza that Dingdong is really from 2006? He happens upon a newspaper headline announcing President Ramon Magsaysay’s 49th death anniversary. He tells her that Magsaysay’s plane will go down the following day in her time. (Would any local broadsheet bother to carry that as a banner story)?

Best parts

This contrived exchange aside, the best parts are those that show Dantes and Calzado on the phone and repeatedly trying to meet under a tree beside a tranquil lake. Dantes has never been more handsome in a movie; Calzado, never more radiantly beautiful. Their performances are so convincing that not only do we accept the unusual premise; we hope that fate will find a way to make the characters meet.

Praise is due Reyes for making this tricky story work for the most part. He overcomes the rough spots with his tangible passion for the plot, manifested in the camera movements and the production design’s disarmingly nostalgic vibe.

What will probably trigger the most discussion among viewers is the ending, which is at once innovative and predictable. Suffice it to say that the always wonderful Gloria Romero is the innovation, while the ending’s predictability involves singer-actress Karylle, Dantes’ real-life girlfriend. It tickles the mind to speculate on how much richer the conclusion might have been if the filmmakers hadn’t given in to that peculiar Tagalog movie convention, the love team. The film’s creators could have been just a little braver in that aspect.

Festive frozen delight

REVIEW

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

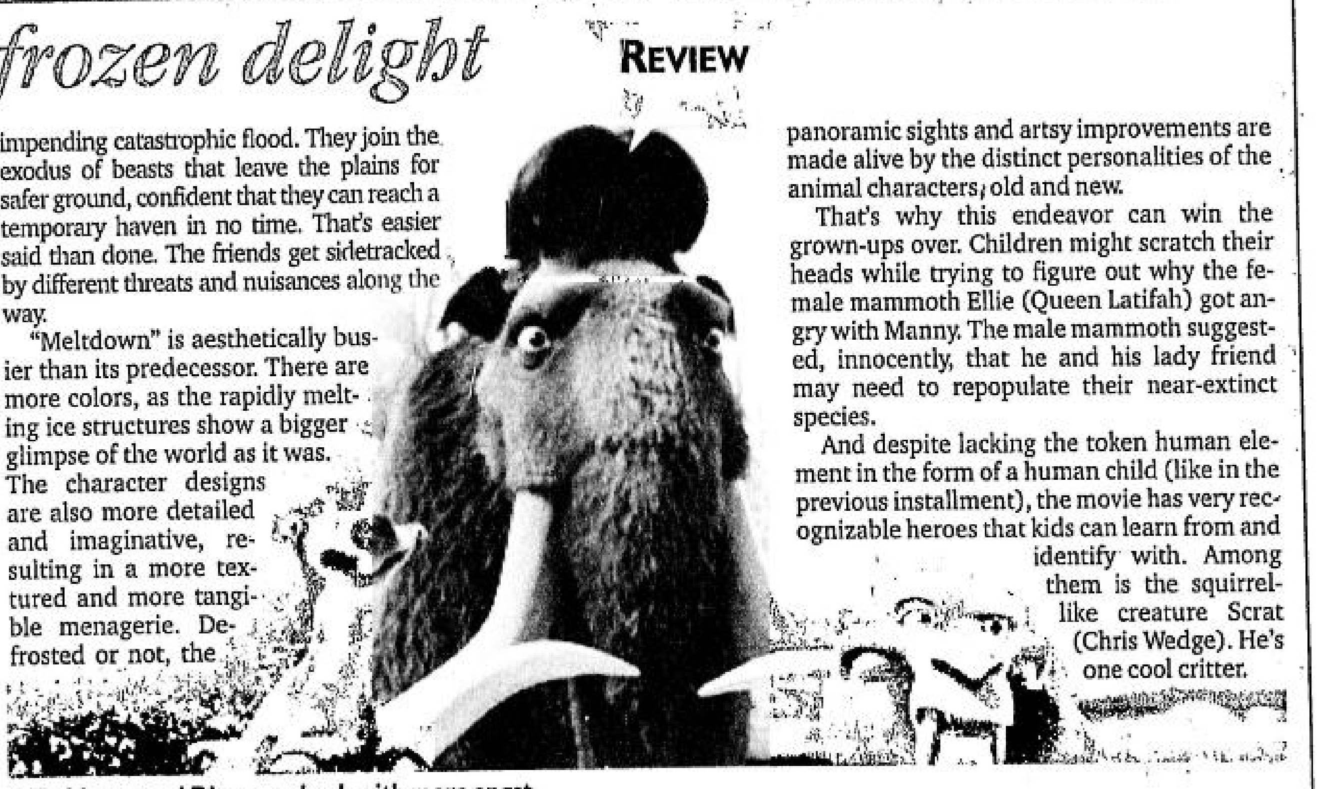
THIS SEQUEL TO 2002’S MODERATELY entertaining animated hit “Ice Age” revisits familiar territory and further explores its generic but likeable characters. As with the first one, “Ice Age 2: The Meltdown” clicks with kids through well-timed use of physical comedy, but even adults can now get a kick out of some implied, more mature themes in the dialogue. The plot may be simple, but it’s assuredly a timeless fable.

The unlikely friendship between digitally rendered animal misfits Manny the mammoth (voiced by Ray Romano), Sid the sloth (John Leguizamo), and Diego the saber-toothed tiger (Denis Leary) is less emphasized, but still prominently shown. The trio’s angst and insecurities take center stage as they try to escape an impending catastrophic flood. They join the exodus of beasts that leave the plains for safer ground, confident that they can reach a temporary haven in no time. That’s easier said than done. The friends get sidetracked by different threats and nuisances along the way.

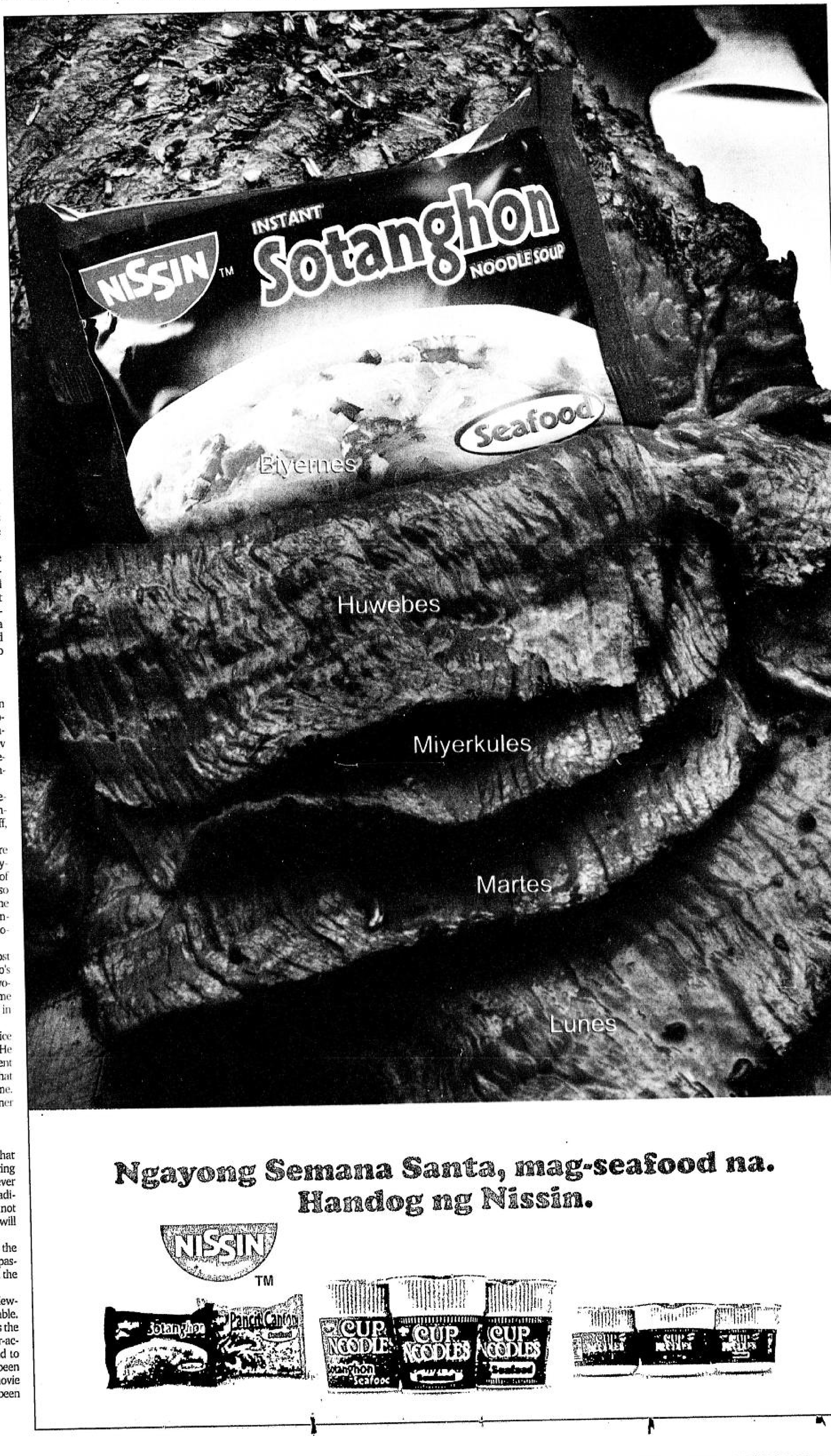
“Meltdown” is aesthetically busier than its predecessor. There are more colors, as the rapidly melting ice structures show a bigger glimpse of the world as it was. The character designs are also more detailed and imaginative, resulting in a more textured and more tangible menagerie. Defrosted or not, the panoramic sights and artsy improvements are made alive by the distinct personalities of the animal characters, old and new.

That’s why this endeavor can win the grown-ups over. Children might scratch their heads while trying to figure out why the female mammoth Ellie (Queen Latifah) got angry with Manny. The male mammoth suggested, innocently, that he and his lady friend may need to repopulate their near-extinct species.

And despite lacking the token human element in the form of a human child (like in the previous installment), the movie has very recognizable heroes that kids can learn from and identify with. Among them is the squirrel-like creature Scrat (Chris Wedge). He’s one cool critter.



SID, Manny and Diego are back with more angst.



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Shangri-La Plaza

From page A2-1

Kabisote 2"), and Dominic Zapata ("Mulawin the Movie").

Peque Gallaga's "Pinoy Blonde"—produced by Unitel, shot with a HD digital camera and transferred to film—has four citations. Another Unitel release, "La Visa Loca," has six.

Also cited are the mainstream movies "Mulawin," seven; "Exodus," seven; "Bahay ni Lola" and "Ispiritista," three; "Enteng Kabisote," two; "Let the Love Begin," two.

NATHAN Lopez up for Best Actor.

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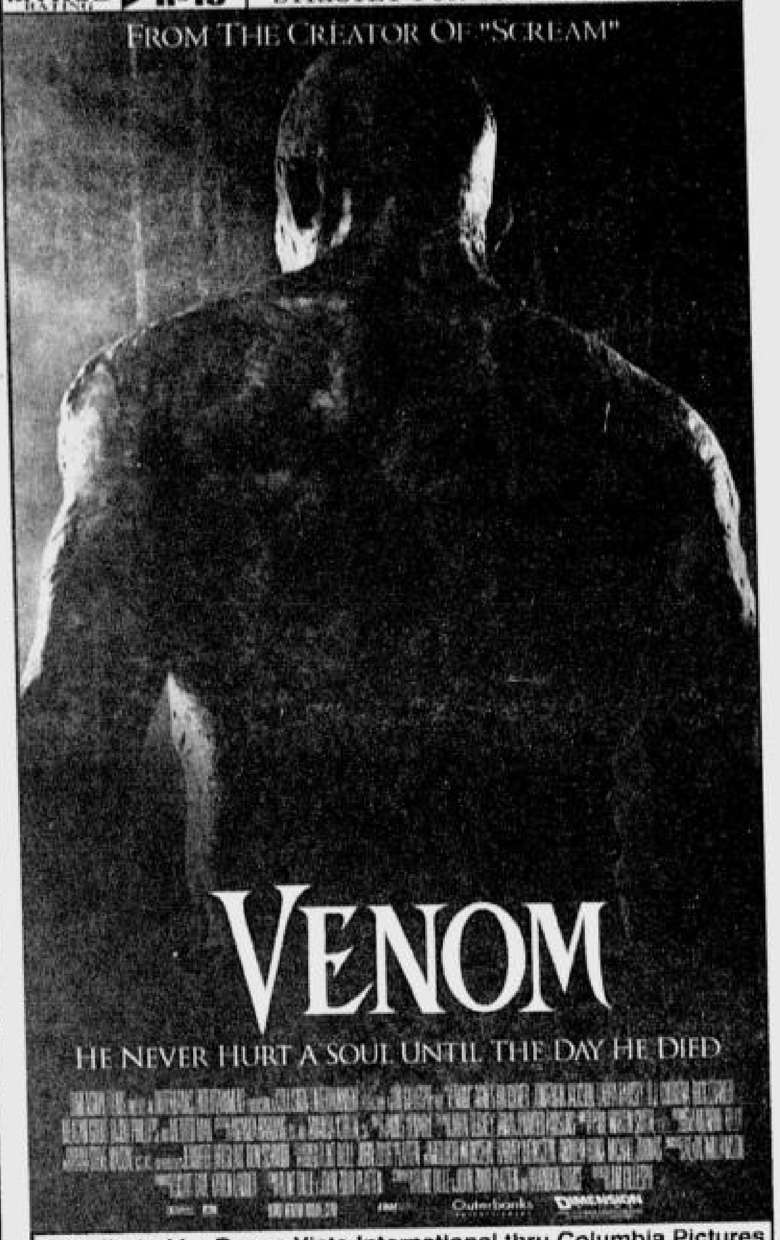
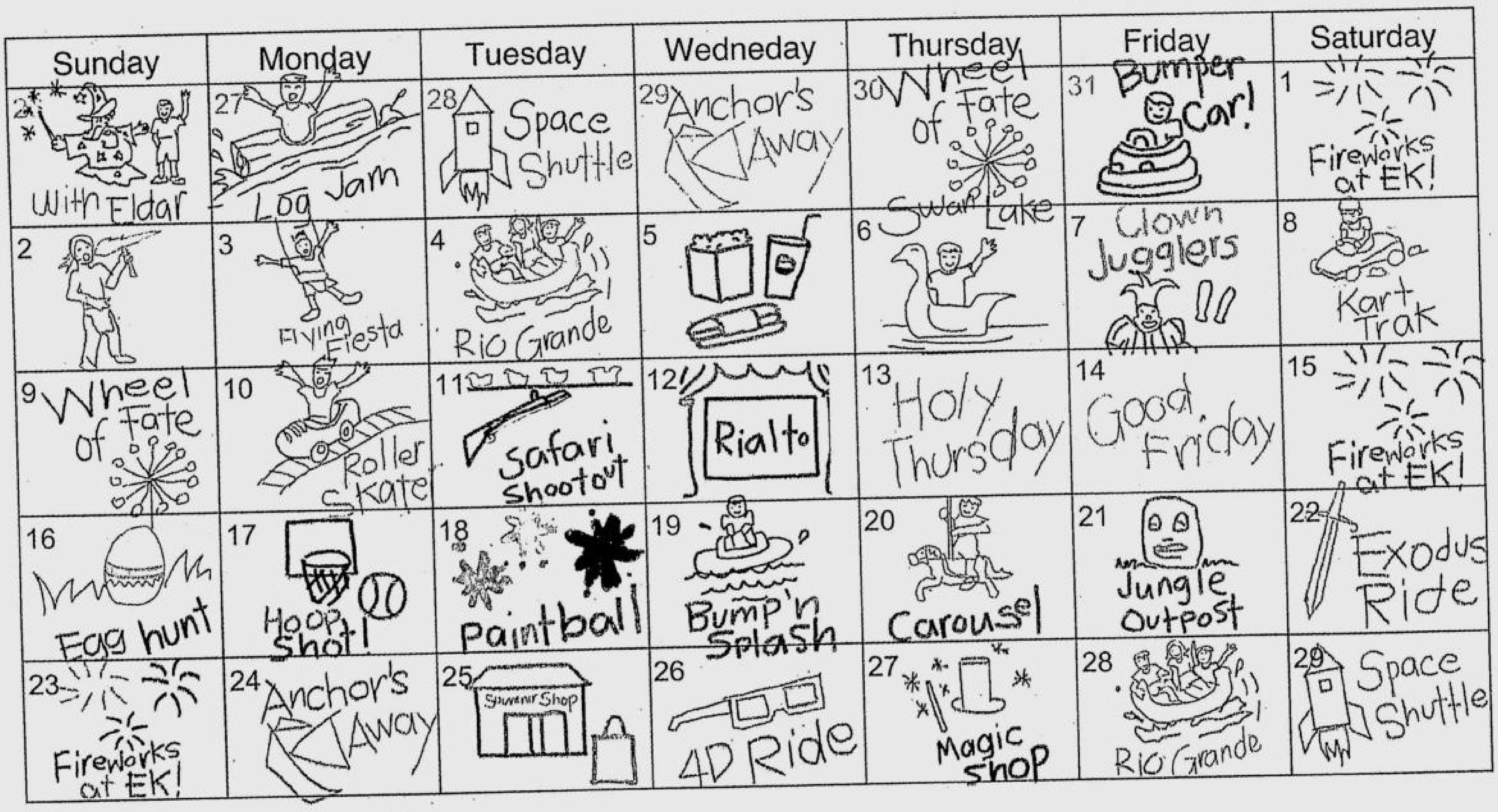

FROM THE CREATOR OF "SCREAM"
VENOM
HE NEVER HURT A SOUL UNTIL THE DAY HE DIED

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

APRIL 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedneday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 With Eldar	27 Log Jam	28 Space Shuttle	29 Anchor's Away	30 Wheel of Fate	31 Bumper Car!	1 Fireworks at EK!
2	3 Flying Fiesta	4 Rio Grande	5	6 Swan Lake	7 Clown Jugglers	8 Kart Trak
9 Wheel of Fate	10 Roller Skate	11 Safari Shootout	12 Rialto	13 Holy Thursday	14 Good Friday	15 Fireworks at EK!
16 Egg hunt	17 Hoop Shot	18 Paintball	19 Bump'n Splash	20 Carousel	21 Jungle Outpost	22 Exodus Ride
23 Fireworks at EK!	24 Anchor's Away	25 Souvenir Shop	26 4D Ride	27 Magic Shop	28 Rio Grande	29 Space Shuttle

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Rex Smith reveals strong RP ties

By Marinel R. Cruz

I'M SURPRISED THAT NOT everyone knows I've worked with Filipino musicians and, in fact, recorded my latest album here in Manila. The cover picture was shot at a local studio, too."

Singer-actor Rex Smith, who popularized the romantic pop song from the 1970s, "Simply Jessie," was talking about his newest CD "Simply ...Rex." The album, under MCA-Universal Records, has not been released in Asia.

"I love the people here. I appreciate the fact that I could just come over and immediately converse with all of you," said Smith during a gathering on Friday at the Gloria Jean's Coffees in Makati City.

Smith said he has been to the Philippines three times. His last visit was in 2000 when he recorded "Simply... Rex." Last night, he performed at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City. Tonight, Smith will be at the Hard Rock Café in Makati City.

"My son Brandon, 26, has come with me on this trip. He loves it here! He's been to Boracay. Now, he's off to Greenhills Mall to get some pearls," Smith added, smiling.

The singer-actor said plans of returning here yet again and touring the rest of Asia are already in the works. "I want to introduce to the people here some of my Broadway work. I've been part of the theater industry for 25 years now. People here may not be aware of it, but the main thrust of my career has long been in theater."

Smith made his Broadway debut as Danny Zuko in "Grease!" He played Frederick in "The Pirates of Penzance" and starred in its film adaptation. He was also in "The Human Comedy," "Grand Hotel," "The Scarlet Pimpernel" and "Annie Get Your Gun."

Smith also starred in Lincoln Center's "Anything Goes," The Kennedy Center's "West Side Story," and the Canadian production of "Sunset Boulevard." He toured with the production of 'Joseph...," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Godspell" and "They're Playing Our Song."

How much of the songs in your 10-track album did you write yourself?

"Heart Beat," "Jessie Will You Love Me?," "Run with the Angels," "Don't

REX/ A2-2

HIS dad fought in World War II.

LISA comforts her friend Paris. Huh?

Early favorite leaves 'Idol'

By Kathryn L. Reyes

"I'M ONLY 16. THIS CAN'T BE THE END OF the road for me. It's just the beginning ."

And so, gracefully, Lisa Tucker, an early judges' favorite this season, left "American Idol" this week.

She had sung first 'Idol' Kelly Clarkson's "Because of You" on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

Judge Simon Cowell deemed the song too big for her voice.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

In an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment a day after she was booted, Lisa said she had watched the replay of her performance and was quite satisfied with it. "I honestly don't think anything went wrong."

Were you surprised to land in the bottom three for the third time this week?

Not at all. I was prepared for anything. I wasn't any more surprised than I was the first time.

Why did you choose that song?

I also considered singing an Alicia Keys. But I just wanted to sing a real "singer" song.

What did you say to Paris (Bennett), who was reduced to tears by the results?

We're roommates; we're really close. I just reminded her of the tour, when we'd be together again. ("AI's" Top 10 go on a US tour after every season.)

No rivalry at all between you and Paris?

None whatsoever. All the contestants were all like brothers and sisters.

Simon earlier said you were the best 16-year-old they ever had, did you feel any pressure?

I'm a very optimistic person; I didn't feel the pressured [but] it meant so much to me knowing that Simon said that.

Do the contestants consult each other on which song is best for whom?

Yes, we do.

Mandisa is nicknamed "Mandiva," Kevin was "Chicken Little." Would it have helped if you had a nickname, too, for the extra attention?

Yes, definitely. I might have wanted to be nicknamed "Mighty Tuck."

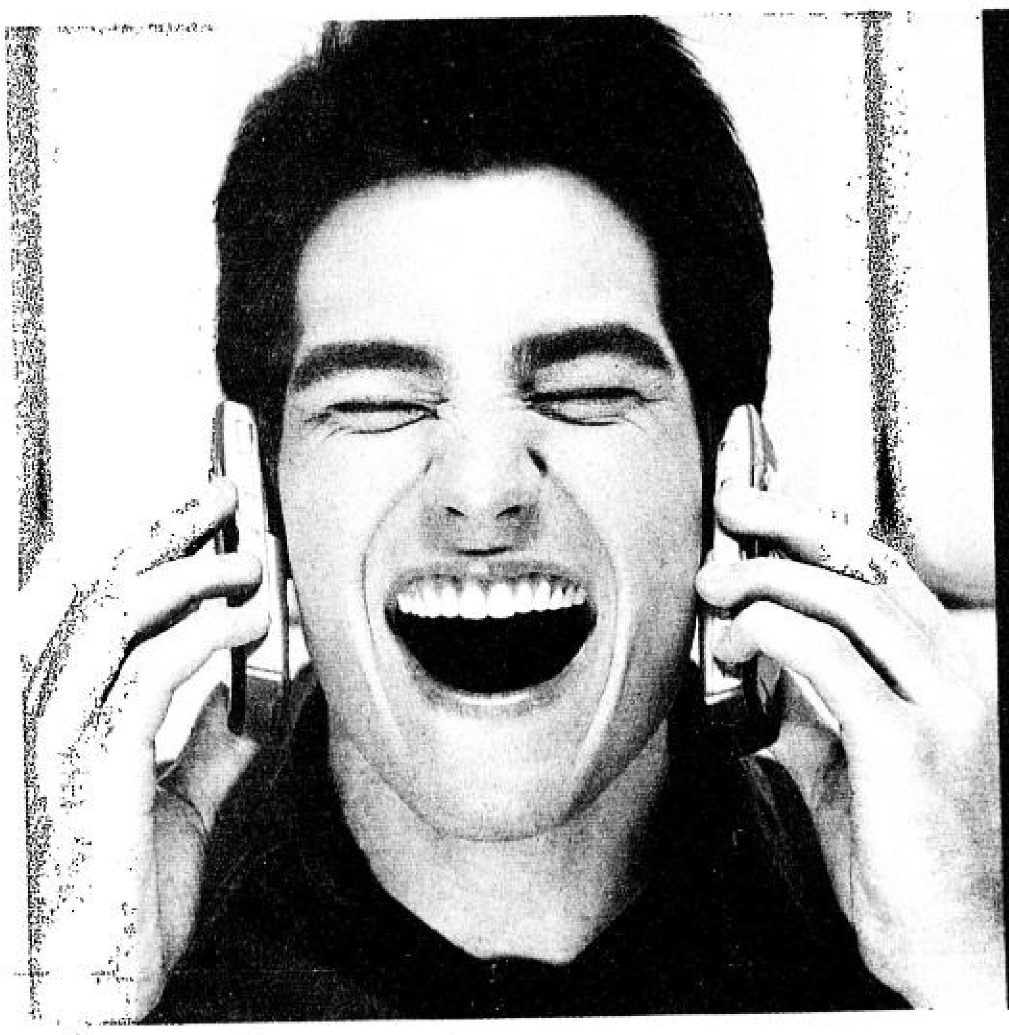
Now that you are out of the competition, who will you vote for and why?

I am not picking up that phone because it's really tough to choose.

What is the best and the worst part about being on "American Idol"?

The best part is just being able to perform. On the downside, it kind of takes you away from ... it interrupts your life but it is well worth the interruption.

("American Idol" goes on Star World Wednesdays and Thursdays—6 p.m. direct via satellite, 8 p.m. replays, 11:30 p.m. primetime. ABC 5 also broadcasts on the same days at 10 p.m.)



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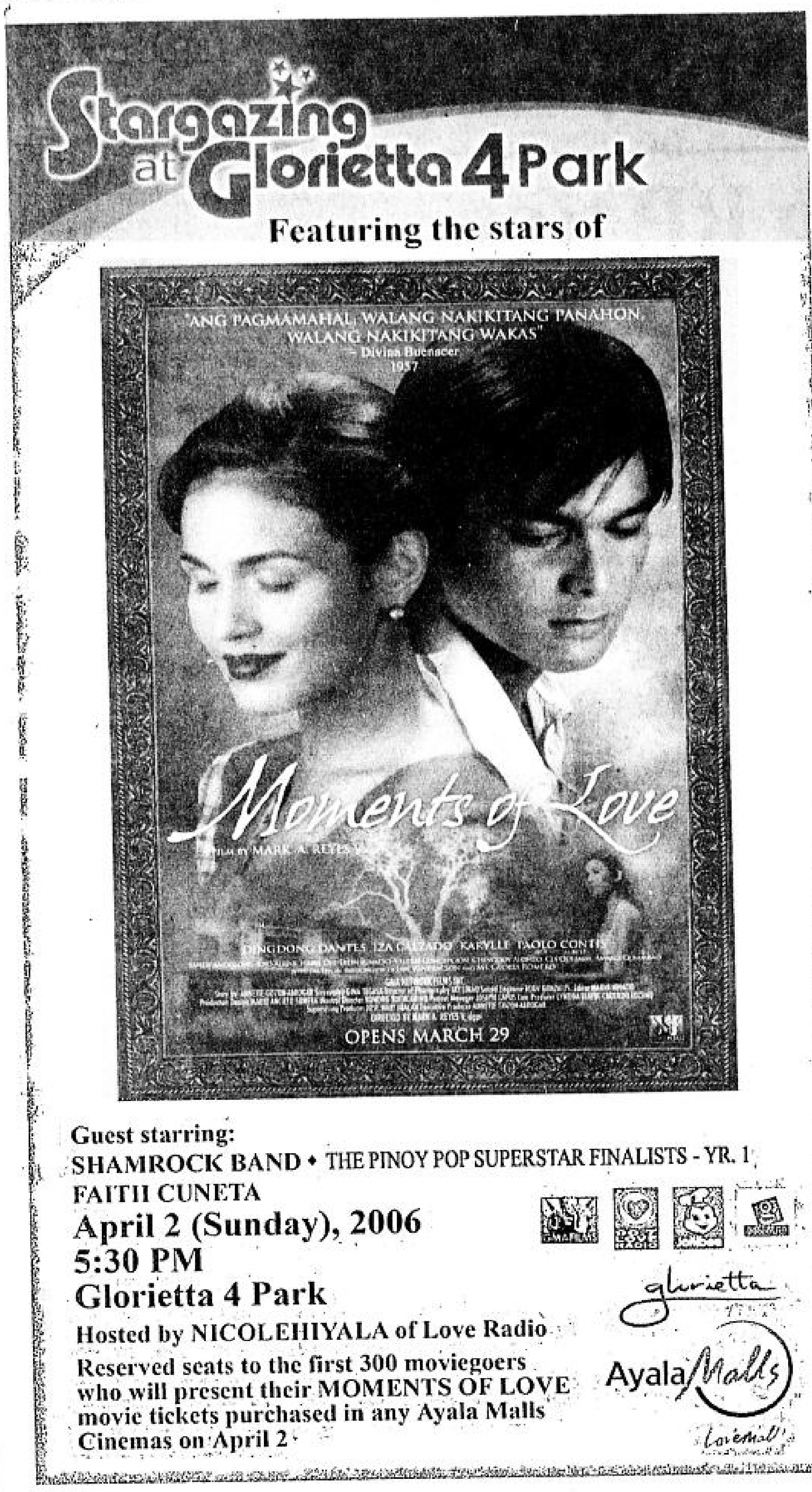
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A FILM BY MARK A. REYES V.
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Guest starring:
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5:30 PM
Glorietta 4 Park
Hosted by NICOLEHIYALA of Love Radio
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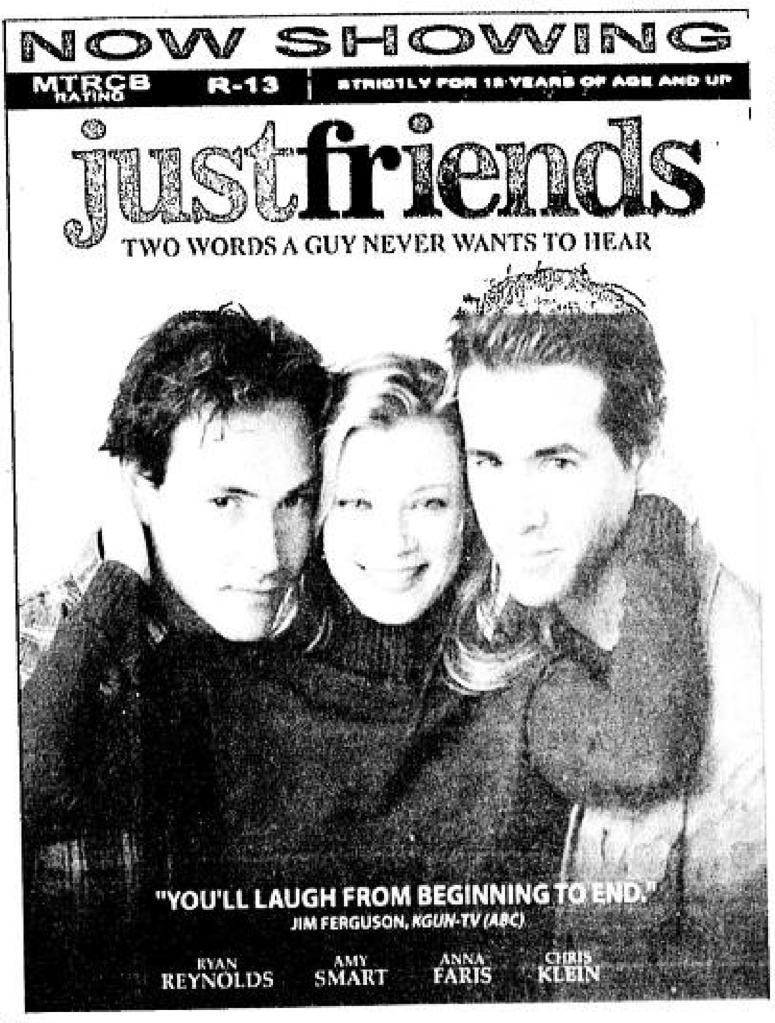
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JIM FERGUSON, KGUN-TV (ABC)
RYAN REYNOLDS AMY SMART ANNA FARIS CHRIS KLEIN

Mon David does the

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN BOXING CHAMP MANNY **Pacquiao** came home after winning big in the United States, he was lionized like a national hero.

Now that **Mon David** has flown in (April 1) from London after topping the international jazzfest recently held there, he will be similarly feted and thanked for putting the Philippines on the world map in the field of music?

What *do* you think?

We hope that government and entertainment executives do plan a big homecoming for Mon, because we'd like to believe that, in their estimation, the arts are at least as important to the country as sports.

What do *you* think?

Can you see it? Mon, being rained on by confetti as his parade makes its slow way up Ayala Avenue, thousands of people's cheers ringing in his ears?

Mon, being given a reception at Malacañang Palace, after which a ballroom full of top government official's enjoy a jazz concert featuring him and the country's best performing artists?

What do you think?

Then, Mon becomes the special guest on a host of TV shows, with his victory being held
spiring example for asp
who similarly want to
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of commercial compro

After which Mon is
show of his own, an SR
ing concert at Araneta
Aliw Theater, and a n
immortalize his victory.

What do you *think*?

While we're lauding
spectacular musical fe
we'd also like to cite
lovely wife Ana for bei
derful, loving parents.

We've had the di
sure of giving thei
and talented daug
her first lead role (i
musical; "Birh
Caysasay"), and sh
testament to their o
ceptional "talent"

MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
PROBLEM CHILDREN
Nanny McPhee
NOW IN ITS 2ND WEEK!

Rex Smith reve

Mean Nothing at All" and "Too Late Now," which is a live recording of my performance at the Carnegie Hall. "Jessie, Will You Love Me?" is a sequel to "Simply Jessie."

Are you aware that your song "Simply Jessie" is still being played on local radio?

Yes. I appreciate that.

Steve (O'Neal, producer of Smith's concerts) said I'm one of the youngest artists he brought here. You see, I'm 50. I'm not that young, but I guess it's my youthful approach to life that makes me look young. That's the great secret. About a month ago, I visited my dentist to have a filling replaced. He wouldn't believe me when I

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AT THE CINEMAS

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 ULTRAVIOLET	2 MOMENTS OF LOVE	3 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 VENOM	2 JUST FRIENDS	3 THX BASIC INSTINCT 2 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 RENT	5 NANNY MCPHEE	6 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	7 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 JUST FRIENDS 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30	2 BASIC INSTINCT 2 11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX JUST FRIENDS 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 RENT 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 ULTRAVIOLET 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BASIC INSTINCT 2 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	2 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN		
	3 JUST FRIENDS	4 MOMENTS OF LOVE	5 VENOM	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	2 BASIC INSTINCT 2	3 VENOM	4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 MOMENTS OF LOVE	2 VENOM		
	3 JUST FRIENDS	4 BASIC INSTINCT 2	5 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	

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BPI Installment Madness March 15 to 31, 2006	Anson's Emporium Exhibit March 12 to 31, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Child Development Center of Cebu's Culminating Activities March 30, 2006	Levi's Engineered Freedom Park April 1 & 2, 2006

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Featuring the stars of
Guest starring:
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April 2, 2006
(Sunday) 5:30 PM
Glorietta 4 Park
Hosted by NICOLEHIYALA of Love Radio
Reserved seats to the first 300 moviegoers who will present their MOMENTS OF LOVE movie tickets purchased in any Ayala Malls Cinemas on April 2
Moments of Love
A FILM BY MARK A. REYES V.
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BREITLING His and Hers Watch
His Model: Colt Quartz 306
Her Model: Colt Oceane 310

WINNER:
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	GLORIETTA AND GREENBELT	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Major Prize Raymond Weil His and Hers Watch His Model: 5568 MC 00308 Her Model: 5398 P00107 / 5368 MC 10200	WINNER: FELBERT N. PADILLA 76B K8, Kamias, Quezon City	WINNER: VERN MADAMBA 11 F. Cruz Street, BF Homes Parañaque
Minor Prizes. Lacoste His and Hers Watch His Model: 3510G63 Her Model: 3510L63	WINNERS: LEILA D. SOLIMAN 233 Knoll Drive, Makati South Hills, Parañaque City	WINNERS: MA. LIZABETTE M. VILLAR Blk 8 Lot20 Pearl St., Pacita II Phase2A San Pedro Laguna
Lacoste His & Hers Watch His Model 6800G31 Her Model. 6800L31	MEI SHAN C. LI LIAO 10 Condor St. Concorde Vill. Mia Rd., Tambo, Parañaque City	BRYAN MARK YABAO 33 E. Rosario St., St. Michael Village, Las Piñas City
Kenneth Cole His and Hers Watch His Model KC 3584 Her Model. KC 4480	BARBARA B. GARCIA H-203 Galeria de Magallanes, Magallanes Vill., Makati	ZENAIDA C. ALBA 80 Angeles St., Alabang Hills Village
	AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Major Prize Raymond Weil His and Hers Watch His Model: 5568 MC 00308 Her Model: 5398 P00107 / 5368 MC 10200	WINNER: JOCELYN L. OQUIAS 27 Sanson Road, Lahug	WINNER: JOANNE LANGITAN Blk 126 Lot 10 MH Del Pilar Zn3, Brgy. Rizal, Makati City
Minor Prizes. Lacoste His and Hers Watch His Model: 3510G63 Her Model: 3510L63	WINNERS: HAZEL GO 44 Eagle St., Sto. Niño Vill. Banilad, Cebu City	WINNERS: ASUNCION M. GARCIA 9011 Hormiga St., Rizal Vill. Makati
Lacoste His & Hers Watch His Model 6800G31 Her Model. 6800L31	GEORGE DY 912 A S. Fortuna St., Banilad Mandaue	ANNA RICHIE A. QUILATAN 347 Dingginbayan St., Ibayo, Tipas Taguig City
Kenneth Cole His and Hers Watch His Model KC 3584 Her Model. KC 4480	AYLEEN M. BENITEZ #4 RSBS Mactan Airbase, Lapu-Lapu City	JOSEPHINE S. BERNARDO 1014-B Esla St., Alvarez Extension Sta. Cruz, Manila

Winners have been notified via telephone call and registered mail. CHRONOS LUCERNE TIMESTUDIO

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is a proud
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s' parents!

Nicole is as talented and as good a person as her mom and dad.

Performance awards are great, but the best "trophies" are the children who do us proud by turning out to be good and giving human beings.

We're sure Mon and **Ann** agree.

Finally, Mon deserves special praise for winning his international award when he's already a golden boy. Success may take its time coming to the deserving, but it comes.

We trust that Mon's sterling example will inspire the many mature people out there who have been waiting for recognition to come their way.

Don't lose heart, Easy street could be just around the corner.

Movies on TV

TODAY on Cinemax, 7:25 p.m., "The Adventures of Brisco County Jr. Tomorrow 3 at 8:25 a.m., "Reality Bites." 3:45 p.m., "The Great Race." April 4 at 6 a.m., "Born Yesterday." 4:55 p.m., "Wyatt Earp."

Today on HBO, 11:15 a.m., "Stripes." 4:30 p.m., "Moscow on the Hudson." 8 p.m., "Back to the Future, 2." April 3 at 11:15 a.m., "Out of Africa." 12:10 a.m., "Surviving Picasso." April 4 at 4;15 p.m., "Catch-22." 6:15 p.m., "Biloxi Blues."

MON DAVID

On CNN

"CNN Connects: The Price of Progress" airs tonight at 10 and April 5 at 10 p.m. "Talk Asia" is telecast today at 7:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., and tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. "CNN Today" airs M-F, April 3-7, at 7 and 10:30 a.m.

'The Sopranos'

THE FIRST season of the Emmy award-winning series, "The Sopranos," will start telecasting on HBO Signature at 10 p.m. on April 10. The show stars **James Gandolfini, Lorraine Bracco, Edie Falco, Michael Imperioli** and **Nancy Marchand,** and presents an inside look at the family life of a modern-day Mob boss.

Two episodes will be screened every night until the 13-episode season ends, and there will be a weekend marathon on April 22 and 23 starting 1 p.m., also on HBO signature." LazyTown'

THE "SPECTACULAR cartoon—come to life," "Lazy Town," premiered on Nickelodeon last month, delivering action, comedy and a fresh blast of youthful energy. Aimed at preschoolers, the show is about an optimistic 8-year-old named Stephanie, who comes to live in LazyTown and meets a zany mix of people, including the world's laziest super-villain, Robbie Rotten.

Fortunately, LazyTown is under the watchful eye of Sportacus, a super-fit hero who helps the townspeople battle Robbie's schemes.

áls strong RP ties

From page A3-1

told him my age. And you'd think that a dentist would know more than anybody how old you are.

I also attribute that to my Broadway work. It has kept me in shape.

I'm part Cree native American Indian and part Cherokee. I think the native blood in me gives me longevity. I really believe that.

What makes the Philippines special to you?

My father was a naval aviator during the World War II and he was in the battle in Leyte Gulf. Being here reminds me that I am proof positive of why those men and women in World War II gave their lives for the freedom I'm enjoying right now. Had a bullet or bayonet gone another way, I wouldn't be here. The song "From Here to Eternity" is a tribute to my forefathers.

OPENS APRIL 15

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1 ICE AGE 2 • THX
12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30

2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 JUST FRIENDS
11:15 1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

5 ICE AGE 2
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 BASIC INSTINCT 2
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 NANNY MCPHEE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

8 VENOM
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:45

9 SHE'S THE MAN
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

10 ULTRAVIOLET
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 ICE AGE 2
10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

2 NANNY MCPHEE 12:00 1:50 3:40
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3 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
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4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
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7 BASIC INSTINCT 2
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METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SHE'S THE MAN
1:00 3:00 5.00 7:00 9:00

2 ICE AGE 2
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:15

3 BASIC INSTINCT 2
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

4 JUST FRIENDS
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

5 VENOM
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

6 NANNY MCPHEE 1:00 3:00
ULTRAVIOLET 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:05

8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES 936-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 BASIC INSTINCT 2
2 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
3 JUST FRIENDS
4 VENOM
5 ICE AGE 2
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 ICE AGE 2
3 RESERVE
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1 ICE AGE 2
2 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
3 BASIC INSTINCT 2
4 VENOM

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3 HOUSE OF FURY
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

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1 ICE AGE 2
2 16 BLOCKS
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 GLORY ROAD

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1 ICE AGE 2
2 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 VENOM

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ICE AGE 2
4 VENOM

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1 ICE AGE 2
2 COED SCANDAL
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 VENOM
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

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1 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ICE AGE 2
5 HOUSE OF FURY
6 VENOM

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 ICE AGE 2
2 SYRIANA
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 THE DARK
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 GLORY ROAD

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2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 ICE AGE 2
5 DATE MOVIE
6 V FOR VENDETTA

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TAMAYO

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Globe Asiatique is also donating a house and lot to the winner of "PBB Celebrity Edition."

Paolo & Suzy's 3rd

THE THIRD DAUGHTER OF PAOLO ABRERA and Suzy Entrata was born on Monday, March 27. The ecstatic parents announced they were naming her Maria Antonella. She weighed in at five pounds, 15 ounces. "Small but so cute!" Suzy chirped.

MARIA Antonella Abrera

Viva films in the US

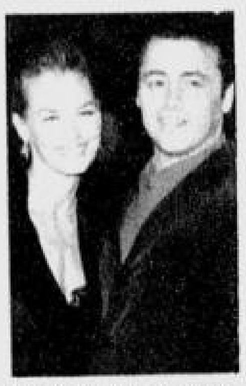
ECHOSTAR COMMUNications Corporation has announced that its Dish Network satellite television is now offering a new Filipino programming package called Viva Pinoy Pack. The pack includes Viva TV, NBN America and RPN USA.

Viva Pinoy programming is a mix of Filipino-language channels that provides movies, news, sports and lifestyle programs. Viva TV provides access to the most recent and top-rated movies from the Philippines. NBN America offers extensive news programming along with local sports, while RPN USA is a general entertainment and lifestyle channel that offers Filipino music, news, cooking, travel and fashion programs.

"Viva TV will entertain the entire Filipino-American family with a mix of everything that captures the heart of the Philippines," said Vicente Del Rosario, chair of Viva Entertainment Inc.

On top of Viva TV, NBN America and RPN USA, Dish Network also carries the Mabuhay Channel, plus 115 international channels in more than 25 languages.

The Viva Pinoy Pack costs from $11.99 to $16.99 per month. For details, visit www.dishnetwork.com or call 1-888-279-2174-DISH (3474).


MATT LeBlanc with Melissa REUTERS

Friends

LOS ANGELES—Matt LeBlanc has filed for divorce from his wife, citing irreconcilable differences, but his publicist says the two remain "friends."

The former "Friends" TV star filed papers in Superior Court on Thursday to dissolve his three-year marriage to Melissa LeBlanc, according to documents obtained by Entertainment Tonight. The couple separated Jan. 1.

"The dissolution is amicable," LeBlanc's publicist, Joe Libonati, said Thursday.

The pair married in a celebrity-studded wedding in Hawaii in 2003. AP

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2	ICE AGE 2	1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:30	G
3	ICE AGE 2	12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00	G
4	VENOM	2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 11:00	R-13

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2 (DOLBY)	ICE AGE 2	GP
3 (DOLBY)	BASIC INSTINCT 2	R18
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	NANNY MCPHEE	GP
PREMIERE		
(DOLBY)	VENOM	R13

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2 (SDDS)	NANNY MCPHEE
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE-2
4 GOLD (DTS)	ICE AGE-2
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	BASIC INSTINCT-2
6 GOLD (SDDS)	VENOM
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	JUST FRIENDS
8	MOMENTS OF LOVE
9	V FOR VENDETTA
10	ULTRAVIOLET

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3 (DOLBY)	ICE AGE 2
4 (DOLBY)	VENOM

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4	VENOM

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4	HOUSE OF FURY

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2	MOMENTS OF LOVE
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3 (DOLBY)	HOSTEL
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2	MOMENTS OF LOVE
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4	VENOM

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2 (DOLBY)	MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	ICE AGE 2
4 (DOLBY)	VENOM

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3	V FOR VENDETTA
4	RESERVED

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	MOMENTS OF LOVE
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3	VENOM
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2	VENOM

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1 (DOLBY EX)	ICE AGE-2
2	VENOM
3 (DTS ES)	MOMENTS OF LOVE
4	LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

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2	MOMENTS OF LOVE
3	HOSTEL

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2	RESERVED
3 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
4 (DTS)	RESERVED

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1	MOMENTS OF LOVE
2	HOSTEL
3 (DOLBY)	FINAL DESTINATION
4 (DTS)	HOUSE OF FURY

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1 (DOLBY)	HOUSE OF FURY
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3 (DTS)	ICE AGE-2
4	MOMENTS OF LOVE
5	VENOM

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2	ICE AGE 2
3	16 BLOCKS
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2	DARK DANCER

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Nina Beyond Limits
APRIL 8, 2006 SATURDAY • 8:30 PM
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 3
Tickets at (P300 • P500 • P800)
Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-5610/ 891-9999

METRO MANILA

THE PODIUM
ICE AGE 2
12:15 FS / 12:40 MF / 02:45
04:50 / 06:55 / 08:30LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:30 END
JUST FRIENDS
02:15 FS / 02:45 MF / 04:50
06:55 / 8:30LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:35 END

SM MEGACINEMA
1 ICE AGE 2
11:20FS / 11:50 MF / 01:55
06:05/ 07:40LFS
08:10 LMF / 09:40 END
2 VENOM
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 RESERVED
5 JUST FRIENDS
6 ICE AGE 2
7 V FOR VENDETTA
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 RESERVED
11 NANNY McPHEE
12 SHE'S THE MAN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 ICE AGE 2
5 JUST FRIENDS
6 V FOR VENDETTA
7 VENOM
8 ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 VENOM
4 ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 SHE'S THE MAN
2 NANNY McPHEE
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 JUST FRIENDS
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE
7 VENOM
8 ICE AGE 2
9 ICE AGE 2
10 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 ICE AGE 2
2 JUST FRIENDS
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 SHE'S THE MAN
5 ULTRAVIOLET
6 FINAL DESTINATION 3
7 NANNY McPHEE
8 VENOM
9 V FOR VENDETTA
10 SHAGGY DOG

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 VENOM
4 ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 ICE AGE 2
2 NANNY McPHEE
3 VENOM
4 SHE'S THE MAN
5 JUST FRIENDS
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY MANILA
1 SHE'S THE MAN
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 ICE AGE 2
5 NANNY McPHEE
6 ICE AGE 2
11:15FS / 11:40 MF / 01:30
03:20 / 05:10/ 07:00
08:30LFS / 08:50 LMF
10:40 END
7 VENOM
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 MOMENTS OF LOVE
11 16 BLOCKS
12 JUST FRIENDS

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 ICE AGE 2
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 VENOM
5 SHE'S THE MAN
6 JUST FRIENDS
7 FINAL DESTINATION 3
8 NANNY McPHEE
9 ULTRAVIOLET

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 VENOM

SM CITY SUCAT
1 VENOM
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ULTRAVIOLET

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SM CITY BAGUIO
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 VENOM
4 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY MARILAO
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 CRY WOLF
3 ICE AGE 2
4 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY BACOOR
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 ICE AGE 2
4 NANNY McPHEE
5 ULTRAVIOLET
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE
7 VENOM
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 VENOM
2 THE DARK
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 VENOM
2 ICE AGE 2
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 ICE AGE 2
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 16 BLOCKS
2 ICE AGE 2
3 THE DARK
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY MOLINO
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 NANNY McPHEE
4 ULTRAVIOLET

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 VENOM
10:50FS / 11:00 MF / 12:45
02:30 / 04:15 / 06:00
07:45 / 09:10 LFS
09:30 LMF / 10:55 END
2 ICE AGE 2
10:50FS / 11:00 MF / 12:45
2:30 / 04:15 / 06:00
07:45 / 09:15 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
3 ICE AGE 2
10:20FS / 10:30 MF / 12:15
02:00 / 03:45 / 05:30
07:15 / 08:45 LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:35 END
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 HOUSE OF FURY
6 SYRIANA
7 MOMENTS OF LOVE
8 CASANOVA

SM CITY ILOILO
1 GLORY ROAD
2 ICE AGE 2
3 ICE AGE 2
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 SHAGGY DOG
7 RESERVED
8 V FOR VENDETTA

SM CITY DAVAO
1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 VENOM
5 HOUSE OF FURY
6 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN
1 ICE AGE 2
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 VENOM

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HOT TRIO on the dancefloor: Dante Basco (right) with Elijah Kelley (left) and Jenna Dewan.

Banderas all praise for Fil-Am co-star

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—ANTONIO BANDERAS IS all praise for **Dante Basco**, his Fil-Am co-star in the movie "Take the Lead."

Dante plays one of the high school students who learn ballroom dancing from **Antonio**'s character. "Take the Lead" is based on the inspiring true story of a professional dancer, **Pierre Dulaine**, who volunteered to teach in a New York public school. **Pierre**'s saga to teach waltz to elementary school kids was featured in the acclaimed hit documentary, "Mad Hot Ballroom." In the feature film version, the setting was changed to a high school and hip-hop moves were fused into the ballroom dance steps to broaden the movie's appeal.

In our group's press con with **Antonio**, here was how he responded when asked about the actor who earlier starred in "The Debut," a Fil-Am movie: "First of all, **Dante** is a very good actor. He's a very positive person to work with. He was very helpful, not only in front of the camera but also in all the rehearsals. Because **Dante** is a little bit more mature than the rest of the kids, he was the guy who brought the team together. His purpose was to bind everybody. He did a great job. For me, looking at **Dante** and at all of those kids was like seeing a reflection of myself years ago. I could see wisdom in **Dante**'s eyes, which I saw in my eyes when I looked in the mirror 26 years ago, as I started in this profession. It was a beautiful experience to work with **Dante** and to recognize myself in some way."

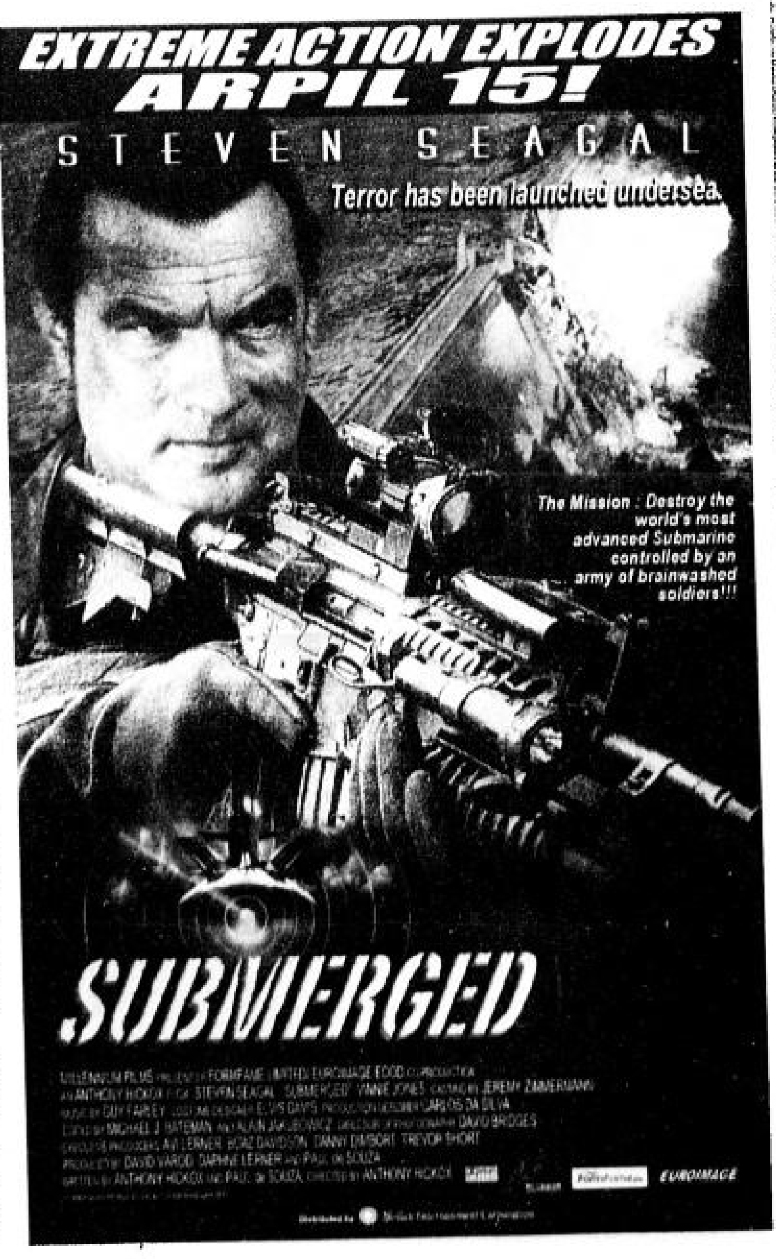
Antonio added that his experience with the young cast would definitely help him in his next projects: "I'll be in two movies in which I have to be with very young actors. 'Take the Lead' was almost like a preparation on how to deal with a group of kids who are way more energetic than me. I have to find my rhythm and pulse with these young actors."

On hearing about "Zorro's" two thumbs up endorsement of him, **Dante**, according to his friend Winston Emano, joked that it was because he made the Spanish actor guilty about Spain's colonization of the Philippines.

Yaya DaCosta, who appears as LaRhette in "Take the Lead" and whose TV credits include "America's Next Top Model," was just as effusive about **Dante** at the press con: "I met **Dante** for the first time at the lobby of the hotel that we were staying in. I thought I knew him. You know how sometimes you see a person and you forget where you saw that person before? **Dante** told me, no, I don't think we've met. But suddenly, I remembered—I had this image of Rufio from 'Hook.' He was really down to earth and fun to work with."

The object of all this praise is an active

BANDERAS/ A4-2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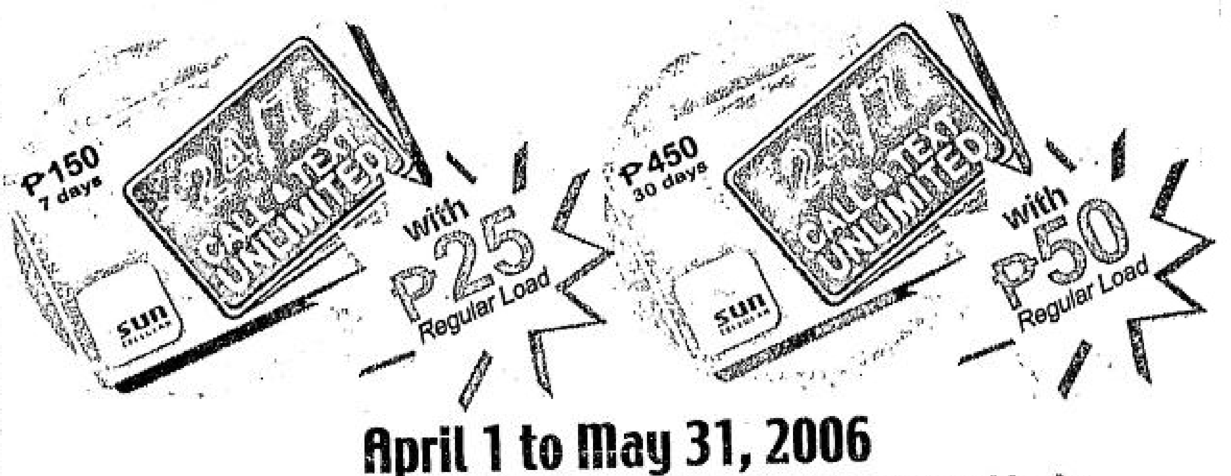

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Banderas all praise for Fil-Am co-star

From pag

presence in the Fil-Am community here in LA, where "Take the Lead" posters showing him and co-star **Jenna Dewan** (Sasha) are plastered all over. "It's a trip," the actor told me via e-mail about seeing his image on the streets. **Dante**, **Jenna** and **Elijah Kelley** (Danjou) make up a smoking hot trio in a tango/hip-hop number during the film's finale.

We last saw **Dante** at the screening of "Our Time Is Up," the Oscar-nominated short film produced by **Pia Clemente**, who was the associate producer of "The Debut," his movie with **Eddie Garcia, Tirso Cruz** and **Gina Alajar**.

We also bumped into **Dante** several times at the Sundance Film Festival last January. At the reception for Asian-Pacific filmmakers participating in the fest, **Dante** was the one whom the "Ang Pagdadalaga ni (The Blossoming of) Maximo Oliveros" contingent—director **Auraeus Solito**, producer **Raymond Lee** and scriptwriter **Michiko Yamamoto**—wanted to have pictures with.

Dante stands out in "Take the Lead." His talent for dancing (he and his three brothers, who are also actors, started very young in the biz as break dancers) and acting make him perfect for the movie. Qualities that are quickly apparent when you meet **Dante** in person—confidence and a smile that lights up the room—are captured in the film.

Since appearing as Rufio, who leads the Lost Boys in **Steven Spielberg**'s "Hook," the "multi-hyphenated" performer has pursued various projects. He is also a poet (he hosts open mike poetry readings) and a hip-hop rap artist.

How did you land this part?

I went through the full audition process. I read the script, met with the director and all that. It's the actor's life—constant meetings and proving yourself.

They must have held dance auditions as well. What numbers did you perform?

Dancing was absolutely a key part of it. The final audition was a marathon-like three-hour dance audition where we learned ballroom nuances and danced tango and hip-hop!

How do you feel about the posters all over LA? And your reaction when you first saw one?

It's real special to me and surreal at the same time. The producers told us that our image best conveyed the energy of the picture and captured what the film was all about. Just driving around town on my motorcycle—my new hobby and main mode of transport—and seeing posters of myself was a trip.

Filipinos know all the ballroom staples—cha-cha, tango, merengue, waltz and foxtrot. Did you, like many Fil-Am kids, grow up watching your parents or grandparents do these ballroom dances?

In my house and neighborhood, we all cha-cha'd and yes, I've gotten much better since my first movie cha-cha in "The Debut." It didn't take very long for me to fall in love with them all.

Of all those, which one do you enjoy most?

I have a standout tango piece in the film, but there's something very elegant about the waltz. It's such a classic romantic dance and I certainly learned to appreciate it.

You were quoted in the production notes as saying that you started acting because of John Travolta in "Grease" and "Saturday Night Fever."

When I was a kid, before **Michael Jackson**'s time, **Travolta** was the baddest dancer on the face of the earth. His every movement, his grace... he was just the epitome of cool in movement and form. Dancing was my first love and now, for the first time—finally!—in my 24-year career as an actor, I get to really dance in a movie.

As a young boy, you worked with Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman and Steven Spielberg in "Hook." What do you remember most about each of them?

First and foremost, they are all geniuses and constant sources of inspiration to me professionally. **Robin** was extremely generous in time and in sharing. We talked at length about poetry. It was through these sessions that he inspired me to first write verse. **Dustin**? No one has pushed me harder, encouraged me further as a co-star than **Dustin**. After my particularly challenging death scene, he screamed at the top of his lungs, "Kid, you're the shit!" and led the crew in sustained applause. He totally validated me. **And Steven**? Watching him direct was what I imagine would be like watching **Mozart** conduct a symphony. You just know that you are in the presence of greatness.

What was your own experience as a high school student? Were you ever in detention? Did you dance often in school shows—or break into impromptu break dance exhibitions?

Yeah, I always got down. In fact, I still do. If you hang out in the right spots in LA, you just might catch me. Hahaha! I attended Paramount High and Orange County High School of the Arts. I got into the same trouble that most young boys do but dance was always a major outlet. I battled the best of them!

Were you in triangles on or off campus, just like in the film?

Uhmm... no comment.

Did you have somebody like Pierre Dulaine who inspired you in dance or in any other aspect of your life?

My acting coach for many years, **Gloria Gifford**, had an immense impact on my life as an artist. She's the closest I've had to a real-life Pierre Dulaine.

How intense were the dance rehearsals for the movie?

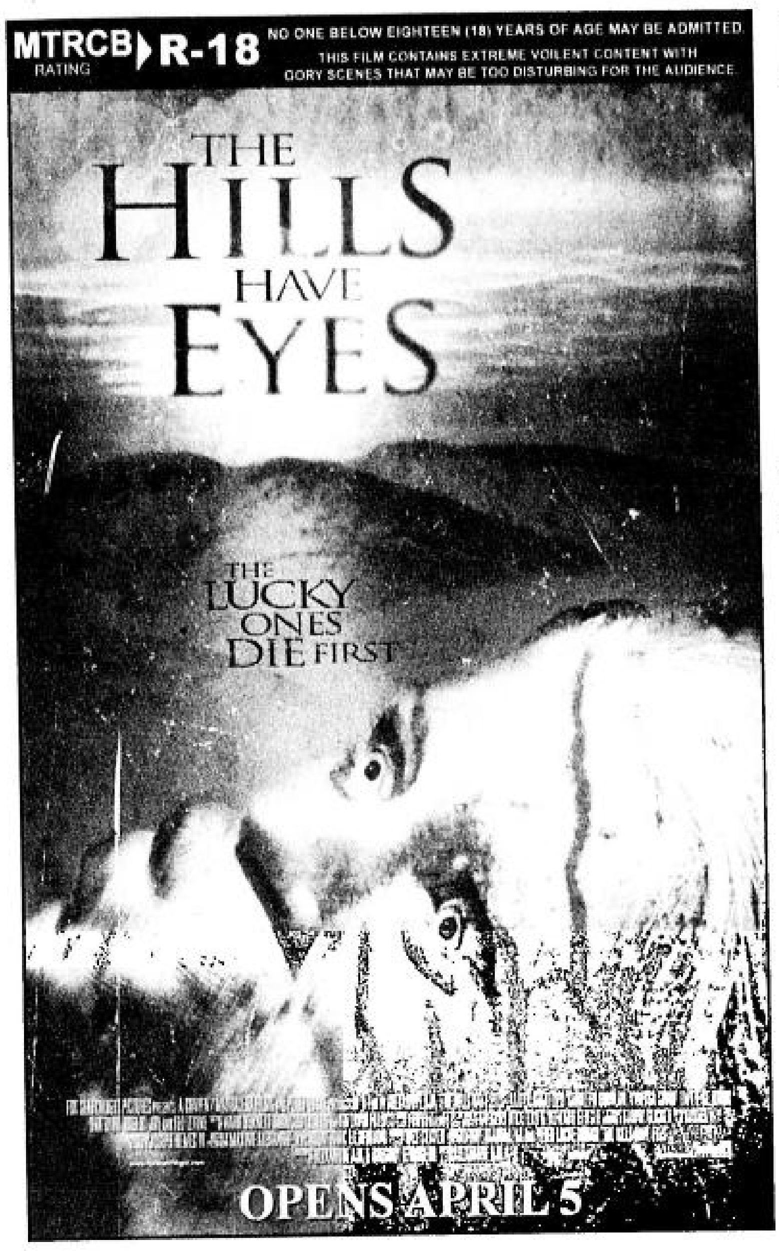
Crazy intense! Four weeks of straight dancing from 10 a.m to [illegible] p.m., Monday to Friday with no water breaks! Okay, the last part is an exaggeration but it was mad intense.

If you and Antonio Banderas had a tango dance-off, who would win?

Hmmm... we don't know [for sure] but I think I would give him a run for his money.

Can he beat you in hip-hop and break dance?

Huge difference. In that category, I have him. No question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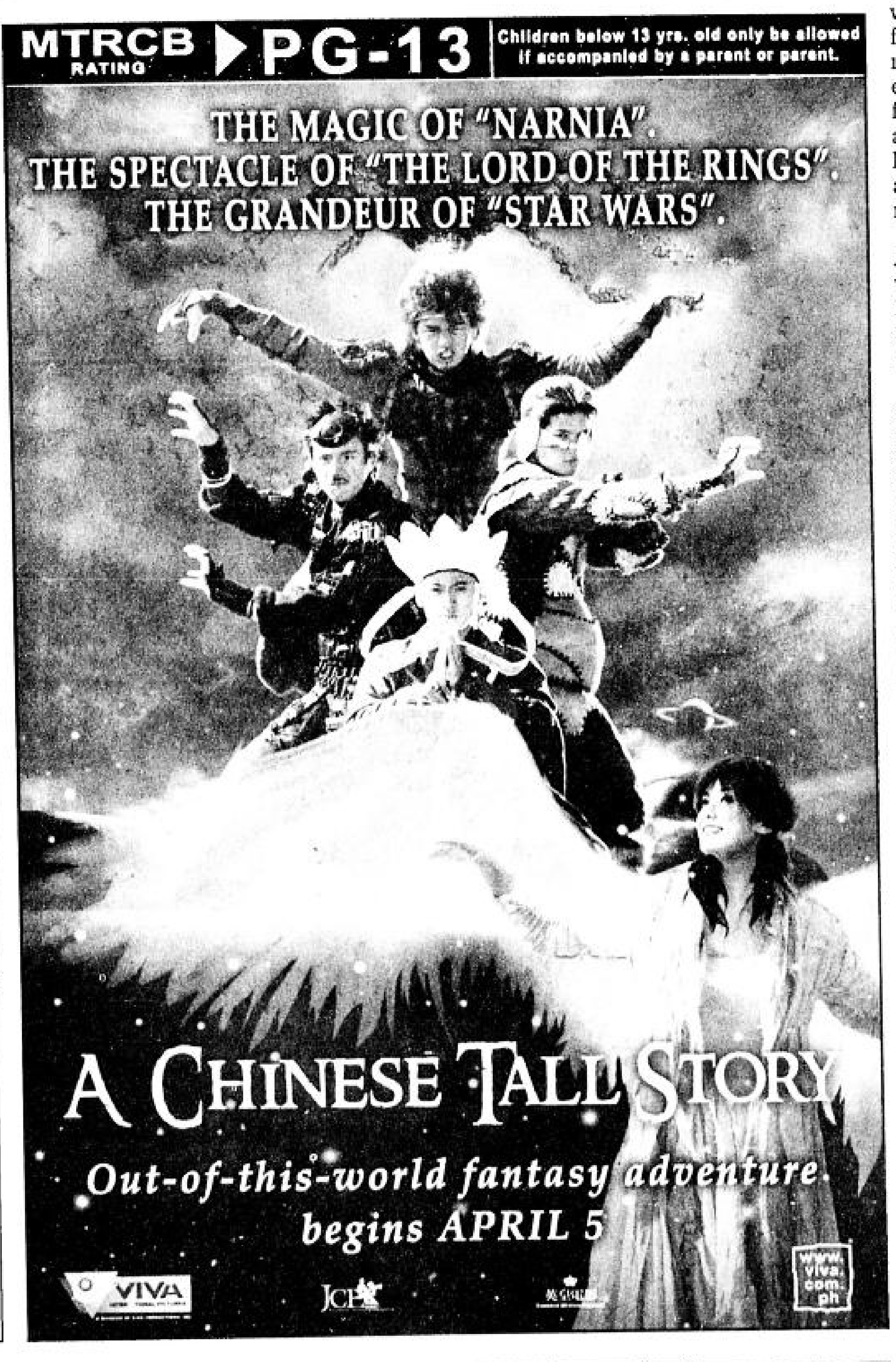
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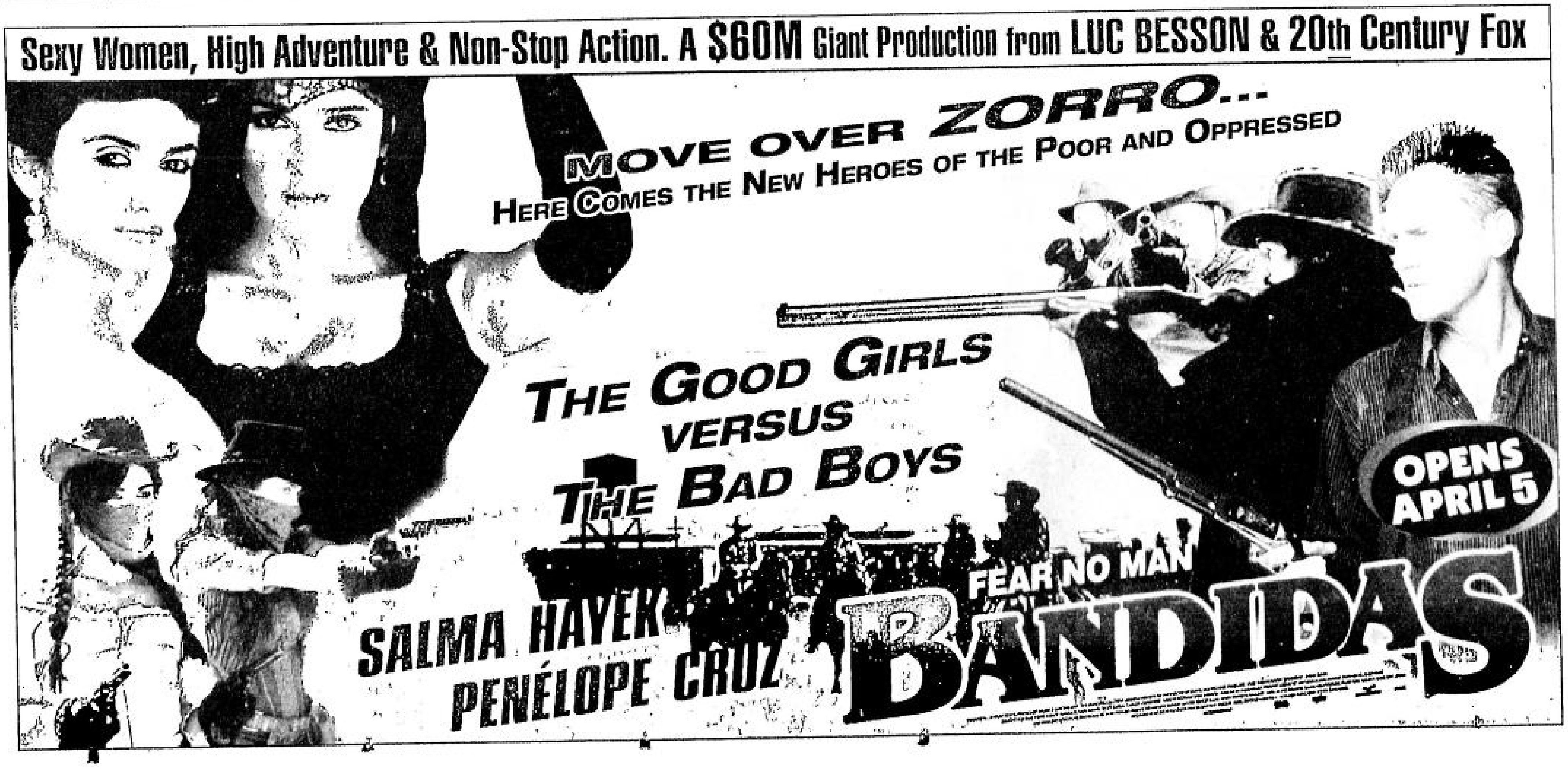
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e A4-1

After working with Antonio, how has your initial perception of him changed?

He's simply a great person—artistically, professionally, socially. Working with him only made me think more highly of him. He's a pure gem—an amazing artist and a loving human being.

Who is hotter—Yaya DaCosta or Jenna Dewan?

You'd be lucky either way… next question.

You play a Latino youth named Ramos. Do you appreciate this aspect of your Filipino heritage that somehow allows you the flexibility to play a Latino?

I'm an actor, first and foremost. As such, I do what I can. But in my heart, Ramos is *Pinoy*.

Is Darryl Reyes, who is also in the cast, Filipino-American?

He is Filipino-Canadian actually. He's a good kid, great dancer, especially popping (the unique West Coast-originated form of street dancing). We battled some kids together and the kid can get down and boy does he love the funk [that's music]!

Did you get to meet members of the Filipino community while filming in Toronto?

Not as many as I would have liked or hoped.

So, how about it—Dante Basco in "Dancing with the Stars"?

I don't think it would be fair. Remember, dancing was my first love.

Poet. Dancer. Actor. Hip-hop/rap artist. Voice talent for Nickelodeon's animated "Avatar: The Last Airbender" and Disney's "American Dragon: Jake Long." Which one do you enjoy most?

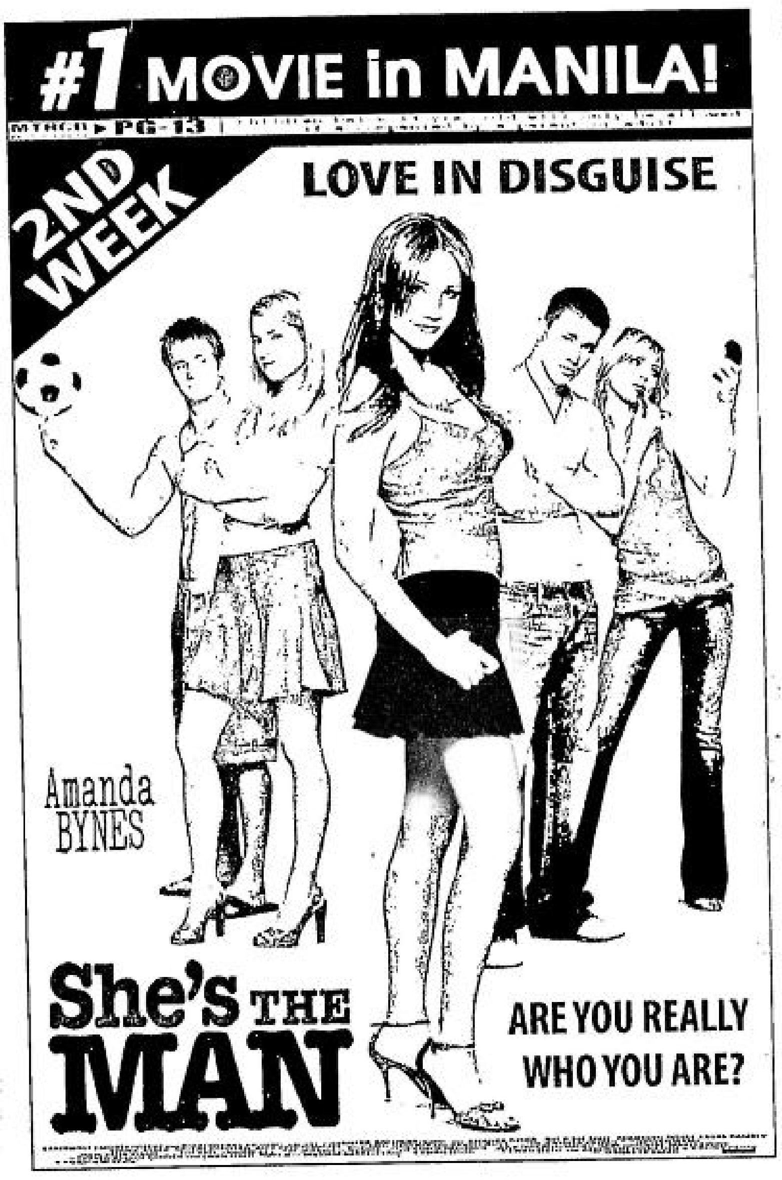
It all comes from the same core as an artist: the search for truth, your own truth. I'm just thankful that I'm as fortunate as I have been. I try to work harder than everyone else.

What's next?

Whatever the road brings. Hopefully, that will include more challenging, history-making, stereotype-busting roles in film, TV, dance, music, whatever. And the hope that those will include collaboration with more *Pinoys*.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

DANTE Basco (second from right) with Antonio Banderas and the rest of "Take the Lead" cast.



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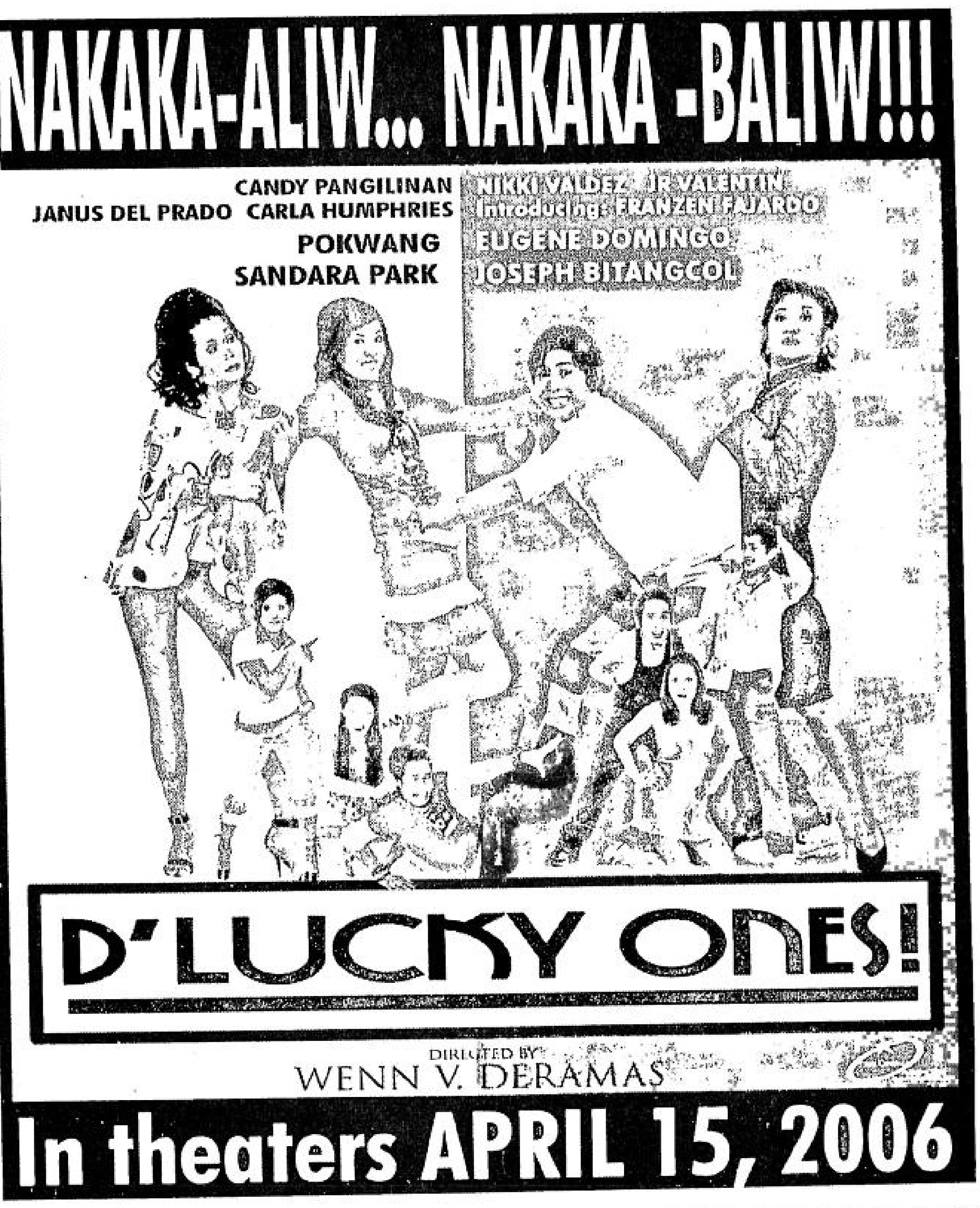

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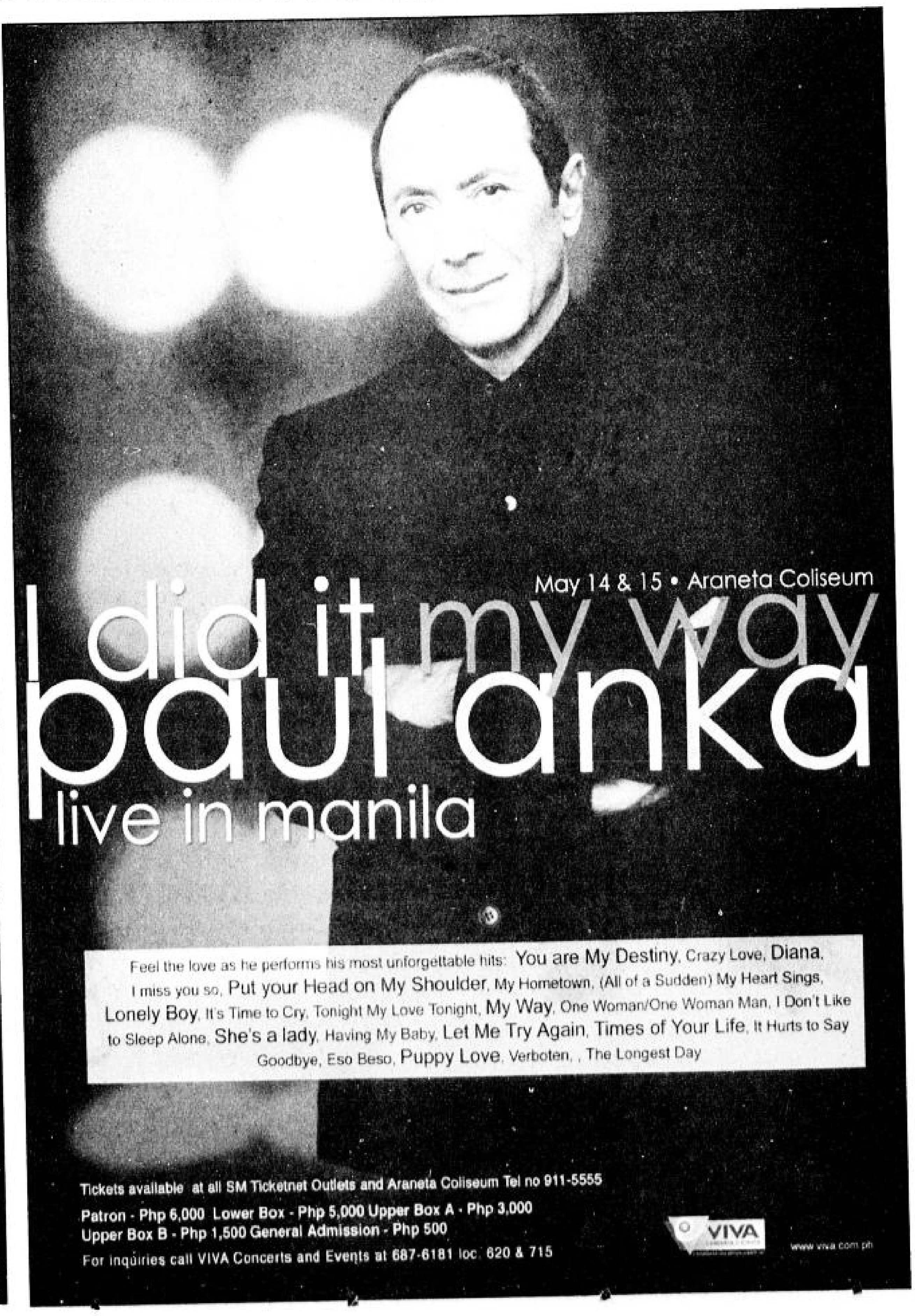

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Ultra-sexy Milla Jovovich enjoys kicking ass

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

LOS ANGELES—"I'M JUST A simple girl with a Serbian accent, a Russian-sounding name and American attitude," disclosed the ultra-beautiful, ultra-sexy model-turned-actress Milla Jovovich when we interviewed her at a five-star hotel here.

The 30-year-old stunner with long legs, green eyes, short flyaway bob and sparkling smile was very comfy and relaxed. She looked sharp and even more statuesque (at 5'8") in one of her own creations from her Jovovich-Hawk fashion line—a gray blazer, pink blouse and denim pants.

With hardly any makeup, Milla's beauty and charm, shone through nonetheless. Before she became an actress-businesswoman, she was a spokesperson for L'Oreal. She has remained perky, down-to-earth, uninhibited. And funny.

She can change voices and imitate other actors, including Jack Nicholson. During our interview, she punctuated her hilarious anecdotes stories with a gruff sort of laughter that was so endearing.

After almost every sentence, she asked, "Do you know what I mean?" by way of emphasizing a point.

At one point, she went demonstrated to the roomful of media people the sword choreography she learned for her latest movie "Ultraviolet," where she plays Violet or "V," member of a vampire-like subculture of humans called Hemophages.

"I like doing Violet because she reminds me of myself," Milla said. "She is a go-getter, very aggressive like the modern woman who needs to do her job. Then, she realizes she also wants to have a family. I love kids and I always get along with kids. So when Violet struck this immediate bond with this kid Six (portrayed by Cameron Bright), I could relate to that."

Written and directed by Kurt Wimmer ("The Recruit," "The Thomas Crown Affair"), "Ultraviolet" is a sci-fi movie from Columbia Pictures, about the battle of the Hemophages against a government that is afraid of their power.

Wimmer admitted in another interview that he had Milla in mind when he wrote the story. He explained, "She has the talent, beauty and athletic ability integral to playing such a complex, fascinating and fun character."

After her memorable appearances in the action-packed thriller "Resident Evil," and "Resident Evil: Apocalypse," Milla said she did not mind her new label: "A girl who loves to kick ass. I do not mind being in the group of Angelina Jolie, Charlize Theron and the like. I love martial arts. I do most of my stunts and I practice eight to nine hours a day. When I go back to my hotel room, I continue practicing by myself. It's like practicing for the Olympics."

Born to a Russian stage actress, Galina Jovovich, and a Serbian pediatrician, Milla became one of Revlon's "Most Beautiful Women in the World" at age 12. She has graced the covers of more than 150 international magazines and has been dubbed by several magazines as one of the "Sexiest Women in the World" or one of the "Hottest Celebrities."

The 35-22-33 supermodel-actress confessed, though, "Being beautiful is not a problem for me in my work. My problem is my name—Jovovich! People say, 'Oh it's a foreign sounding name, let's make her an alien!'"

Mom aghast

Milla narrated how she once attempted to drop her last name and just use her first name "but my father is this barbarian dude who told me (in a gruff voice) 'I will disown you!' I told him, 'You will disown me from what?' As a little girl, that was really scary."

As for her "alien roles," her mother used to tell her, "You always look weird in your movies! Why can't you look beautiful? Why do you have to always look like an alien?"

Milla revealed, "I used to do the emotional dramas so when this role came along of Violet, I was excited. I did not realize that I'd have to rehearse and practice more than eight hours a day! Before, I just sat and internalized. I did not train all day. I think I'm the kind of person who needs to be inspired and creative all the time."

One of her creative passions right now is Jovovich-Hawk, which she set up last year with her friend of 13 years, model Carmen Hawk. They first opened a showroom in New York City's Greenwich Village last September and now their products are found at Fred Segal in LA, or can be ordered from Creature Entertainment.

"I love drawing, sketching dresses," Milla confessed. "Carmen and I have been designing cocktail dresses, blazers, mini skirts and the like."

Actress, supermodel, fashion designer, and businesswoman—what else does Milla want on her almost full plate?

She smiled, touched the big ring on her finger, and replied, "A family, a kid, a man who will take care of me."

FEEDBACK

Less of Ruffa...

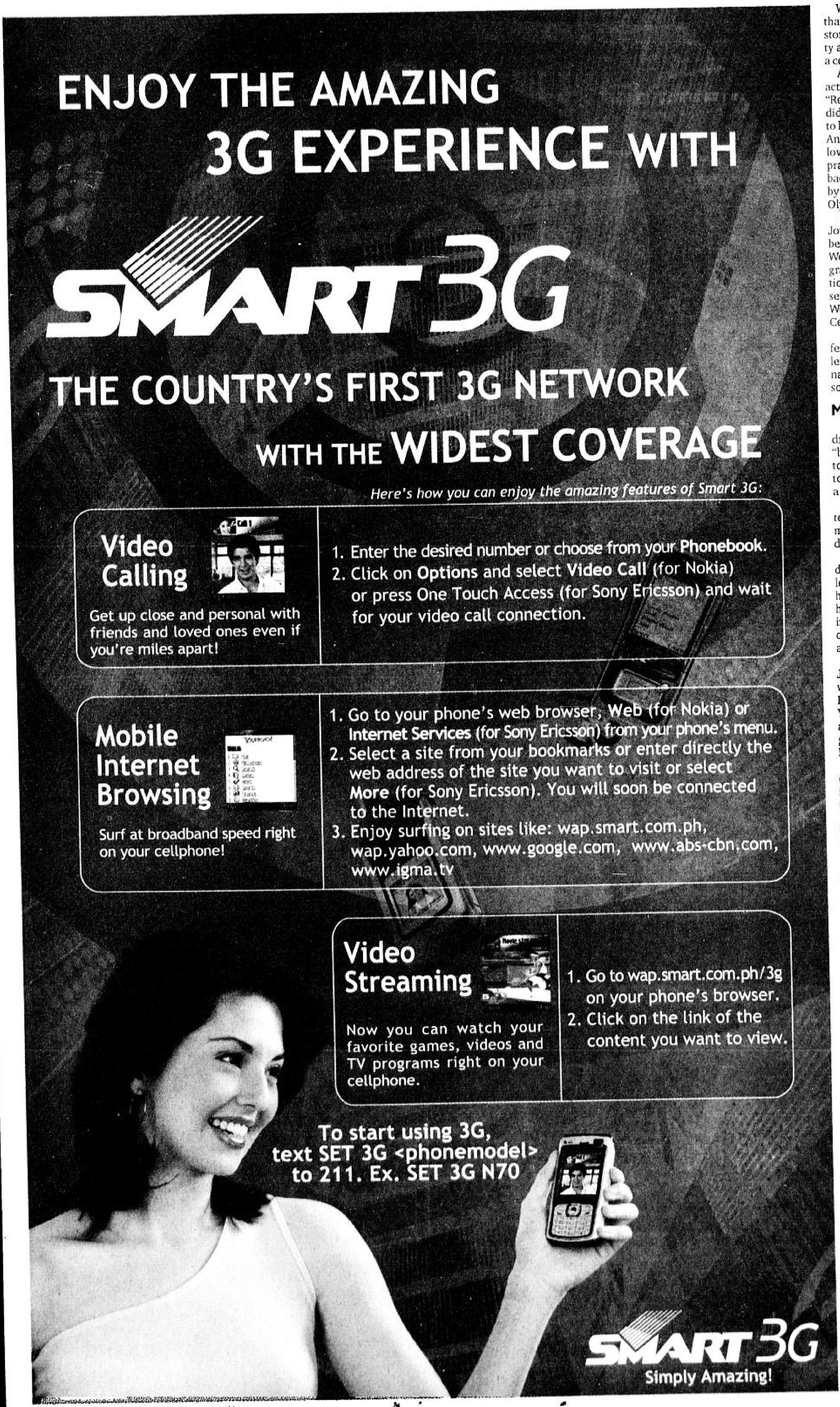
From Moli (molichild@hotmail.com) 844 Crittenden St. NE Washington DC:

I am bothered that most Filipinos seem to have forgotten about Ruffa Gutierrez's participation in the Manila Film Festival scam years ago. Now you are making her appear like a philanthropist. A lot of people, me included, think Filipinos deserve an apology from her for what she did in that festival along with Lolit Solis. At least Lolit was brave enough to eventually own up to her mistake. Please let us not have short memories!

...more of NUT!

From Maria Lagdameo (mlagdameo@milbank.com), 3000 El Camino Real, 5 Palo Alto Square, Palo Alto, CA:

We should have more Nestor Torres. His boob-tube booboos series cracks me up. When I moved to the US 20 years ago, I met a couple of Filipinos who wanted to make an impression on me by speaking in English entirely. They sounded like the persons in Nestor's column. I always ended up telling them, "*Tagalugin ninyo na lang at baka magka-intindihan pa tayo.*"



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JOHNSON is described by his employees as approachable and one of the boys.

JOHNSON tells a crowd of Caltex retailers, business partners and media about the benefits of Caltex with Techron during the product launch at the NBC Tent.

Exec gets valuable lessons from fishing

Chevron CEO learns to deal with different folks from hauling salmon and herring in his youth

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TO THIS DAY, RANDY H. Johnson, country chair and general manager for retail and marketing of Chevron Philippines Inc., can still easily tell fish apart.

This is one of the skills he picked up when he spent the summers of his high school and university years in the late 1970s to the early 1980s working in a large, over 100-foot-long fishing boat that harvested salmon and herring from the cold waters of his native Canada.

RANDY JOHNSON, country chair and general manager of Chevron

Johnson tells the INQUIRER that for a while there, he thought fishing was going to be his life.

What's not to like?

He was earning a handsome C$100 a day for staying out at sea for weeks at a time and being one with the great outdoors.

At the same time, he was working with some "really great people," among them Norwegians who valued the simple life and hard work.

"The Norwegians are unbelievable workers," Johnson says, "they would work straight for days on just a few hours of sleep."

"If you don't work as hard, they won't take you on the next trip," he says.

That would have been tragic for the young Johnson who needed the extra money from helping haul in hundreds of kilograms of fish from the abundant fishing grounds of Canada partly to finance his more expensive athletic pursuits, such as skiing.

"I enjoyed the sport, but skiing requires money," Johnson says, "I had to earn the money myself because my parents were not going to fund me."

Being of Norwegian descent himself, he shared the same passion for hard work that endeared him to his exacting bosses.

This enabled Johnson to go on all the trips he signed up for, and what he earned was more than enough to cover his skiing expenses.

The son of Vancouver, British Columbia recalls that during that time he was earning C$100 a day, a good pair of jeans cost only C$10 each.

The financial prospects of the fishing world were in fact so enticing that Johnson had to decide in 1982 whether to make a career out of it or put his degree in business from the Simon Fraser University to good use.

His Norwegian bosses would have been more than happy to make the lean, broad shouldered six-footer a permanent part of their crew, but Johnson eventually decided to hang up his longshoreman's cap and enter the world of business.

He joined the finance department of Chevron Canada Limited and promptly took a massive pay cut.

The pay eventually caught up as he moved up through a number of positions in finance and marketing in the Chevron group, including retail manager of Chevron Canada Limited.

Johnson's next major break came when Chevron and Texaco merged operations, requiring the formation of a global marketing transformation team.

Johnson became part of that Chevron Texaco team that was tasked with transforming the Chevron, Texaco and Caltex operations into a seamless, functional organization. [Caltex Philippines was renamed Chevron although the stations retained the brand Caltex].

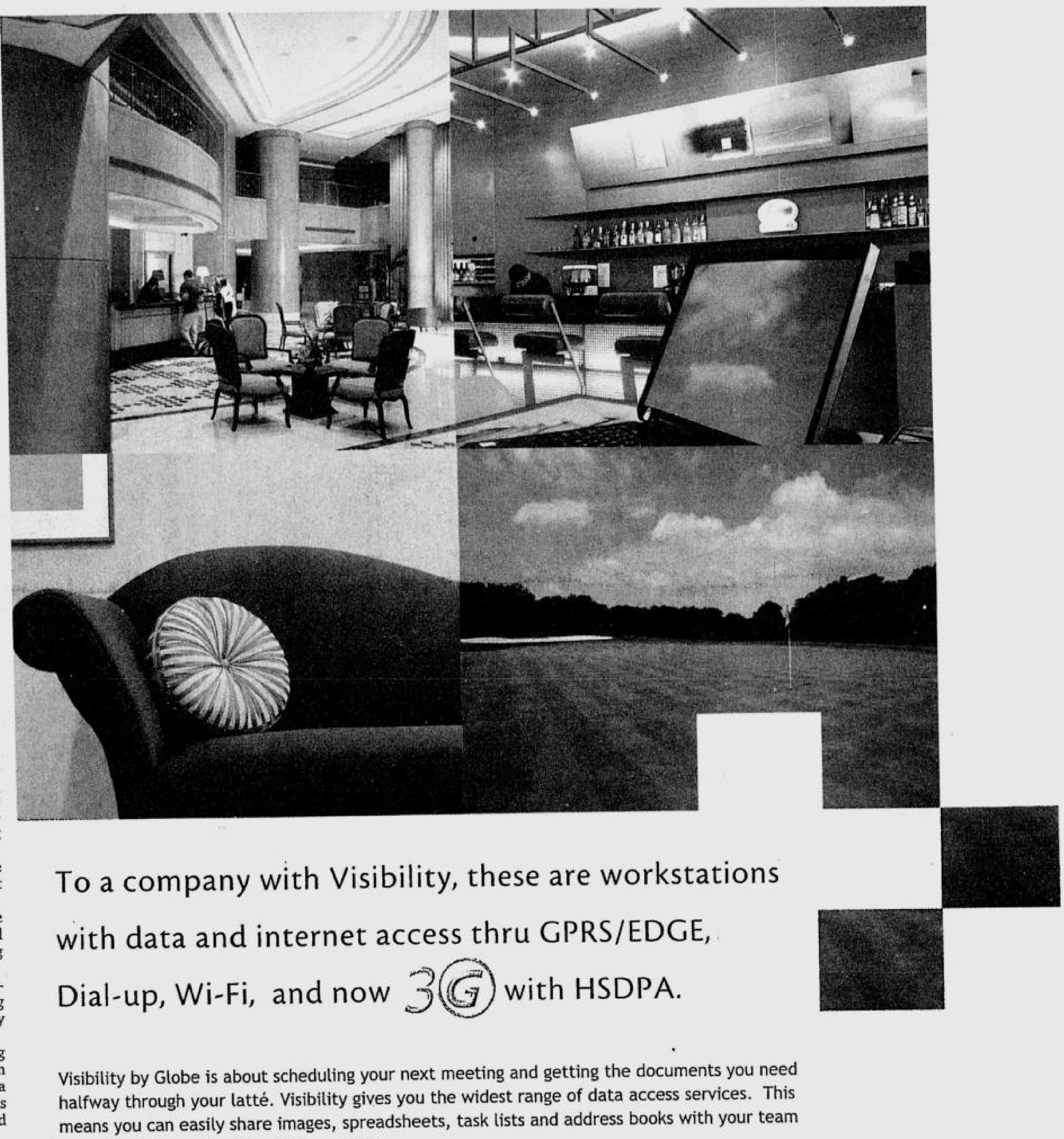
As he moved up, he realized that he got more out of his fishing experience than muscles in his arms and an enduring love affair with the open sea.

Johnson says those years taught him how to effectively deal with different kinds of people with different backgrounds.

Fishing, he adds, was also about working together toward a single goal.

Before, it was to get the most fish. This time around, it was to achieve Chevron's goal to become the preferred brand in the highly-competitive petroleum distribution industry.

EXEC/ B2



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Planting RP's flag on foreign shores

By Amy R. Remo

PLANTING THE COUNTRY'S flag on foreign shores has long been successfully done by numerous wholly-owned Filipino companies.

And a lot of these reputable brands such as RFM, Universal Robina Corp., Goldilocks and Mama Sita, have begun seeing the brighter side of going mainstream with their businesses abroad.

At the recent Good News Kapihan forum held at the Tavern on the Square in Greenbelt, Makati, these companies shared their insights on such ventures.

Universal Robina Corp.

Universal Robina Corp., one of the largest packaged food companies in the country, is now setting its sights on Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand as its priority export markets for its biscuits and snacks, and possibly, its C2 beverage.

"URC has this natural thirst to expand to different markets as a major brand," explained Carlo Villaraza, regional export manager of URC.

Villaraza expects URC exports to hit $20 million this year, a 40-percent jump from last year's figures.

Aside from its 12 manufacturing plants in the country, URC currently has on-the-ground operations in several Asian markets, including Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Vietnam. Internationally, URC has five manufacturing facilities and 13 warehouses.

VILLARAZA

This, according to Villaraza, is URC's entry tool to becoming a dominant player in the Asian market and eventually, in the international arena.

"We're taking baby steps—we start at becoming a major player in Asia with our line of snack foods, cup noodles, biscuits, candies and chocolates, to name a few," said Villaraza.

One of the major challenges in breaking into the mainstream, however, is establishing brand equity.

Villaraza explained that URC encountered several companies that wanted to get URC as a supplier—which means that URC products will be marketed and sold under a different brand.

"But we stuck to our guns. Our vision is to globalize the Jack & Jill brand. We are starting with countries nearby that are strategic," Villaraza said.

To date, URC is exporting to more than 40 countries, with its investments continuing to demonstrate strong growth momentum particularly in Asian countries through its line of potato chips, wafer and salty snacks.

"With competitive pricing and ample market knowledge, we think our goal of becoming one of the biggest players in Asia may not be too far ahead," added Villaraza.

Goldilocks

Goldilocks Bakeshop Inc., the country's leading bakeshop, is setting its sights on strategic markets in Asia within the next few years as part of its expansion program.

"We wanted to plant the Philippine flag abroad in terms of cuisine that is uniquely Filipino," said Goldilocks public relations consultant Allan German.

In the next two years, Goldilocks is eyeing Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand as potential markets.

Goldilocks USA, an affiliate of Goldilocks, meanwhile, plans to set up a new commissary on the East Coast of the United States to add to its existing commissary in California.

"The commissary may cost roughly $1 million," said corporate communications manager Arle Delos Santos.

Goldilocks USA runs 17 branches, 16 in the United States and one in Vancouver, Canada.

Delos Santos also said Goldilocks was adding between 15 and 20 branches this year, including one in Naga City, where the founders of Goldilocks are based. To date, Goldilocks operates 192 branches nationwide.

Goldilocks traces its roots to a simple one-door apartment in a two-story structure at 2300 Pasong Tamo Street in Makati.

The founders had a simple vision: To produce high-quality, high-value, but affordable products. And this has guided every aspect of the Goldilocks business for 40 years.

Mama Sita

GERMAN

Marigold Commodities Corp., manufacturer of the Mama Sita's line of mixes and sauces, started to market its products to the overseas market as early as 1981, a year after it was founded.

"We cater all over the world from US, Europe, South Africa, Israel to Middle East—wherever there are Filipinos," said Mama Sita's Ramon Reyes.

Catering to overseas Filipinos seemed like a natural move for them back then.

"It costs a lot to promote products locally, given so many existing brands and similar products, so we just concentrated on overseas Filipinos," said Reyes.

And it worked on their favor, he added, because Filipinos, once they like your product, they usually stick with it and recommend it to family and friends—especially for overseas Filipinos, who bring Mama Sita products to various parts of the world.

MADARANG

Mama Sita found a breakthrough in the US market in 1981 and its product line (such marinades and sauces) has since been expanded to include more mainstream products which are now widely exported to different parts of the world.

Last year, Mama Sita experienced a 10 percent growth from the previous year, translating roughly to $5 million in sales.

Reyes said that Mama Sita is now eyeing on further tapping the mainstream local and international markets with its line of mixes and sauces through a joint venture with a Hong Kong investment company.

He added that the capital firm tapped Mama Sita to produce a particular product line, which will be marketed still under the Mama Sita brand name.

In the Philippines, Mama Sita's products have been made available nationwide.

"Now we have become more aggressive in promoting and selling Mama Sita products in the country," said Reyes.

RFM Corp.

Although currently the second largest food and beverage conglomerate in the country, RFM Corp. is but relatively a new player in the export business.

"RFM is homegrown and proudly Filipino and we have, for almost 50 years, been a strong player in the domestic market," said RFM vice president Imelda Madarang.

Madarang said RFM's growth today primarily came from expansions, acquisitions and focus on the domestic market, which they have aggressively done in the '90s.

From being the first flour mill in South East Asia in 1957, RFM has slowly evolved to a multi-company enterprise managing a chain of branded products that are highly visible in the consumer market today.

Currently, RFM is also looking at growing its export business.

"Aside from our existing export business, we want to expand it further by tapping the $1.5-billion halal market," said Madarang.

Halal refers to food that Muslim dietary laws allow Muslims to eat.

RFM's export products include mixes under its White King flour brand, such as *bibingka*, *puto* mix, and its Selecta Moo chocolate milk brand.

REYES

Madarang said RFM expected to boost export sales this year to around $7 million from $3.4 million last year.

The said increase in volume of mass market products such as juices and milk, and the revitalization of its tropical juice and ice cream brands for the export market, is expected to propel growth for the company this year.

To date, RFM exports products to 35 countries, the bulk of which goes to the United States of America, Canada, Hawaii and Guam.

It also exports to the Middle East, Pacific Islands, India, Europe and Japan.

KING JAMES
AUCTION CALENDAR

ON-SITE AUCTION
SITE: GOLDMART CONVENIENCE STORE
CONSISTING OF CHEST TYPE FREEZER, VESTFROST CHILLER, ARDCO CHILLER, FISHEYE MIRRORS, 3D AIR CURTAIN, (1) KOLIN AIRCON, (2) KOPPEL AIRCON, GONDOLAS, SHARP COPIER, EMERGENCY LIGHTS, FLAT MIRROR, ALUMINUM W/ GLASS CABINET, SIOPAO STEAMER, HOTDOG COOKER, POPCORN MAKER, OMRON CASH REGISTER, SAFETY BOX, BUNDY CLOCK, FIRE EXTINGUISHER, CCTV CAMERA W/ MONITOR, VHS PLAYER, COMPUTERS, ELECTRIC TYPEWRITER, MICROWAVE OVEN, 4-DOOR STEEL CABINET, EXHAUST FAN, AIWA RADIO, TAGGER, ETC.
ON-SITE ADDRESS : # 1300 LAON-LAAN ST., SAMPALOC, MANILA
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES : APRIL 3-4, 2006 (9:00AM - 5:00PM)
AUCTION DATE : APRIL 5, 2006 (WEDNESDAY) @ 10:30AM
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P5,000

ON-SITE AUCTION
SITE: UNISAVE BANK CALAMBA LAGUNA
BANK FURNITURES AND EQUIPMENT OF (7) UNISAVE BRANCHES
CONSISTING OF (7) SECURITY BANK VAULT, MONEY COUNTER MACHINE, COMPUTERS, MANUAL / ELECTRIC TYPEWRITERS, OFFICE DESKS, TABLES, FILING CABINET, OFFICE CHAIRS, GUEST CHAIRS, CASH BOX, AIRCONS, SIGNAGE AND MANY MORE
ON-SITE ADDRESS : UNISAVE BANK, CALAMBA LAGUNA
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES : APRIL 4-5, 2006 (9:00AM - 5:00PM)
AUCTION DATE : APRIL 6, 2006 (THURSDAY) @ 10:30AM
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P5,000

PHILCOMCEN STEEL TOWER
(ORTIGAS AVENUE, PASIG CITY)
135 TONS OF SCRAP METAL
"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"
SCHEDULE OF BIDDING : APRIL 7, 2006 (FRIDAY) 2:00 PM
VIEWING SCHEDULE : APRIL 3, 4, 5 & 6 2006 (9:00AM - 5:00PM)
MINIMUM BID: ₱1.350M
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Development of wind power set

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY LOGICS Inc., a joint venture between Energy Logics of Canada and Transnational Diversified Corp. is set to develop 100 MW of wind power in the country with initial exploration in Zambales, Cavite and Ilocos Norte.

Wind power is among several new and renewable energy (NRE) source development program of the DOE anchored in its commitment to provide greater opportunities to the underprivileged. Further, EO 462 encourages private sector participation in the exploration, development, utilization and commercialization of ocean, solar and wind energy resources for power generation and other energy uses.

"We are setting our sites towards more sustainable sources of energy to reach the greater majority and hope that the NRE development program becomes a key solution," says Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya.

MOU S'GNING
the Develop t of Wind Project
in

(FROM left) Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya, Marco X. Delgado, Millicent Sim-Asuncion and Sonny Coloma of Alternative Energy Logics Inc. (now renamed "Energy Logics Philippines Inc.") during the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Energy and AELI.

Energy Logics Inc. is a leading company in the Canadian Wind Power Sector, while Transnational Diversified Corp. (TDC) is the investment and holding company of the Transnational Diversified Group (TDG), a Philippine conglomerate with interests in Logistics, Shipping, Air & Travel, Information & Communication Technology and now, Energy.

TDC and AELI president Marco X. Delgado says "TDG is committed to improving the lives of the Filipinos and the environment in which we live. In this latest development, TDG has brought a world class renewable energy group from Canada as a partner to aggressively develop renewable energy infrastructure in the Philippines. This contract to develop 100MW of renewable energy in the Philippines will bring to the Philippines over $150 million of investment and take our country a significant step forward in many tangible and intangible ways. We are firm believers in moving this country forward and proving not just to ourselves, but to the world, that the Philippines can indeed be an investment-friendly country that is rich in natural and human resources."

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Exec gets valuable lessons from fishing

From page B1

Johnson got his chance to lead his own team when he was appointed country chair of Chevron Philippines Inc. in May of 2004—his first crack at being a chief executive officer.

He, however, admits that while he jumped on the chance to go to the Philippines, excited as he is to explore a new place, he did not know much about the country.

"When my bosses asked me, what about the Philippines? I said, where?" Johnson says, "the Philippines is really not that well known in North America."

The little that he knew then about the country he learned from a Filipino nanny who used to take care of his two children.

But never one to back off from a challenge, he and his family moved to the country in December of 2003, just two months after he learned of the opening, and they were literally welcomed with a bang.

"I was here for New Year's and I have never seen so many fireworks in my entire life," Johnson recalls, "Christmas is really celebrated in a big way here compared to Canada."

That was an auspicious start to Johnson's stint at Chevron Philippines.

After close to two years at the helm, Johnson says he has adjusted to the many differences in culture and even language that he had to understand to make the business grow.

And apart from the fact that he can neither ski nor play hockey in tropical Philippines, he has no regrets. He has even taken up mountain biking to keep in shape.

"In the first few months, you are lulled into the feeling that because everybody speaks in English, you all mean the same thing," Johnson says, "actually, the same words may mean different things to different people."

One example is the word "already."

He says that in Canada, if somebody says "already," it means that a job was done extra fast or way ahead of schedule.

"Here, I learned that it just means that it's done, no matter how long it took," Johnson says.

He says he had to keep an eye out for these subtle differences because it may have some impact on how things are done.

He says this is why he always checks up on his staff and Chevron's business partners and contractors just to make sure that they are on the same page, and are clear about their goals and how to achieve them together.

They don't seem to mind as his employees describe Johnson as an "approachable" boss for whom they would not mind trying out new ways of getting the job done.

Getting their act together is vital for Johnson as Chevron attempts to gain a bigger share of a tough market marked with rising prices at the pump.

"It's a tough market because with crude oil at $62 a barrel, demand for petroleum is unlikely to grow significantly unless prices soften," he says.

Chevron recently introduced Techron to jumpstart sales. The 46 year-old Johnson says Techron makes its gasoline products "unbeatable" when it comes to quality, and quality is what he wants Chevron to be known for in the Philippines.

From Surigao lake to Manila supermarkets

Northern Mindanao produces first-class dried fish

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor, UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

ARC
Dried Fish
Dried pijanga

MARKETING of dried pijanga in a Surigao outlet uses private sector promotional strategies.

DRIED pijanga is processed using industry-prescribed good manufacturing practices (GMP)

MAINIT, SURIGAO DEL NORTE—Local folks call it *pijanga*. Elsewhere, it is known as white goby. However it is called, this freshwater fish will go on record for having made it from Lake Mainit in Surigao del Norte to a processing plant in an agrarian reform community in the province, to big supermarkets in Metro Manila and Central Luzon.

Dried pijanga, produced by the Mainit ARC II, has begun to be sold in 100-gram, 250-gram, and 1 kg-packs in retail outlets in the metropolis. Considered "first-class dried fish"—in the category of dried *bisugo* and *danggit*—dried pijanga commands a premium price in the market.

How this was accomplished is a story of a collaboration among three partners: A team from the Philippine-Australia Technical Support for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (PATSARRD); the Upland Marketing Foundation Inc. (UMFI), otherwise known as the private-sector partner, and a women's group from the Mainit ARC II.

The story shows that with right products, adoption of private sector business strategies and collaboration with private sector partners, agrarian reform communities can develop value-adding products worthy of big or "mainstream" markets.

Identifying the product, site

Lake Mainit, with a 124,700-ha area and a 50-km stretch of lakeshore, is the fourth largest lake in the country and the most significant water body in the province. It teems with catfish, mudfish, carp, *tilapia* and eel, aside from pijanga.

A resource inventory revealed the bright potential of pijanga for new product development and subsequent wide-scale marketing. The harvest of this fish is estimated to be 61,000 kg a year.

Subsequently, a pre-feasibility study of pijanga-drying determined the work process, equipment requirements, and production capacity. It also forecast sales, predicted break even points, identified marketing methods and channels, and studied financial aspects like capital and startup costs, income targets, costing and pricing.

Eighteen women from Mainit ARC then proceeded to train in fish drying technology and eventually in managing the project. They were selected for their interest, willingness to learn and commitment.

Conducted by the UMFI, the training initially focused on two aspects: Good manufacturing processes (GMP) and basic food processing.

An industry requirement, GMP training ensures the safety and sanitation of the production operation and the final product. Training on basic food processing was hands on. Each woman had to do step-by-step processing while strictly observing GMP.

The women received follow-up training—as the products went into a series of laboratory and market testing, and as the formulation and process continuously evolved. Today, even as full commercialization is about to take off, the women have been taught to expect even more training.

Product development

The initial prototype of dried pijanga was developed in a makeshift workplace at Surigao del Norte College of Agriculture and Technology. Four trial production runs were done. From the results, production process and formulation were improved.

A series of sensory tests followed to determine how the market would accept the product in terms of taste, aroma, color, texture and other physical attributes.

In a month, a final prototype was ready.

Meanwhile, product packaging and labeling were also evolving. At prototype stage, the product was wrapped simply in cellophane wrapper. This was modified several times as results of the various tests came in.

The final packaging adopted was a high-density polyethylene plastic box—attractively labeled, reusable and microwaveable.

Marketing

A marketing plan was prepared by the women, after training on marketing and business systems with UMFI experts.

The plan identified both local and mainstream markets.

The local market are the local residents as well as tourists and travelers either visiting or passing through Surigao en route to other destinations in Mindanao. Seaports, bus terminals, public markets and supermarkets in the province were specified as crucial locations.

The mainstream market is the 100 plus retail outlets in Metro Manila and Central Luzon that comprise the network of UMFI.

Mainstream marketing

With final product formulation, skills and markets in place, full production is eyed soon.

By this time, the project would have installed its own mechanical dryer, courtesy of the municipal and provincial governments, which pledged donations.

By then, full capacity production of 150 kg fresh fish a day would have been achieved. By then too, the enterprise would have been licensed by the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD).

At full capacity, the plant should be able to produce 205 kg of dried fish a month, at P52,685 production cost. This will generate sales of P71,750 a month and net profit of P19,065.

Full-blown production would also enable the project to go into full-steam marketing.

For the UMFI market network alone, the requirement is 125 kg of dried pijanga a month, involving only a few of its huge retailing network.

Short and long term benefits

At the present limited volume, each of the women stands to earn an additional income of about P1,500 a month. This compares well with the meager income from rice and coconut farming.

Aside from earning income, the women are learning technical and managerial skills. Not only are they being trained to produce and adopt technology but also to market products, supervise workers and manage finance. This is notches above poverty-alleviating activities many rural women are used to. This prepares them for entrepreneurship of the innovative kind.

As sales increase and production grows, more workers need to be hired, creating job opportunities in the community, increasing purchasing power and building the local economy.

Fishermen around Lake Mainit stand to prosper, too, as they try to meet the fish-drying facility's growing demand for their white goby catch.

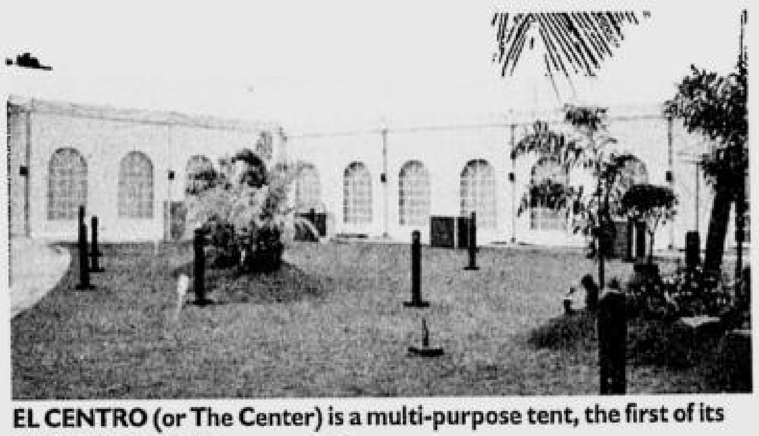
Long journey

It has been a long way from the lake waters of Surigao to the supermarkets of Manila. As Vic Jurlano of PATSARRD puts its: "The way has neither been easy nor smooth, taking 15 months of capability building, product development, market building and, yes, partnership in development."

"But the project is worth all these—especially when the project becomes sustainable and replicable as it is expected to be," adds colleague Aris Portugal.

Tent rises in Subic

By Marlet D. Salazar



EL CENTRO (or The Center) is a multi-purpose tent, the first of its kind to rise in Subic.

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT HAS long been seen as an alternative business and tourism hub in the country. Its strategic location and natural wonders are just some of its many advantages.

Believing that more investors and tourists will see what Subic Bay has to offer, Legend International Resorts Ltd. (LIRL) recently opened its third hotel at the Freeport.

El Centro (or The Center) is actually a spacious multi-purpose tent, the first of its kind to rise in Subic.

The 1,000-square meter tent measures 20 meters wide with a central height apex of 7.25 meters. It is made of PVC-coated polyester by Expo Logistics, and was manufactured in Germany.

Khoo Boo Boon, who was behind the construction of the convention, sports and cultural center, says the tent is designed to withstand typhoon winds with a speed of up to 150 kilometers an hour.

It was set up to accommodate large functions and sports activities, but El Centro that can fit 1,000 people can also be divided into two major conference rooms for smaller events.

El Centro sits across the Waterfront beach and is only minutes away from Legenda Hotel, Subic's premier hotel. Khoo says he expects El Centro to soon host business conventions, but it will also be marketed to house trade exhibits, cultural, sports and entertainment activities.

"I wanted Legend International Resorts to have something out of the ordinary in capturing a slice of meetings, incentives, convention and exhibitions (or what he calls MICE) business in the country," he says.

He wanted a tent as opposed to the conventional concrete structure "as there is none is Subic."

The idea of a "tent" as a venue for large gatherings is patterned after similar structures in Europe and the United States. Similar structures are increasingly becoming popular venues in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

More than just a tent, El Centro has an annex that houses a fully equipped kitchen, audio-visual room, motorized LCD screen and ample storage facilities.

Its entrance hall is complemented by specially designed French windows that provide a view of the Waterfront beach.

Khoo says El Centro is a valuable addition to the Legend group's facilities in Subic.

"El Centro complements LIRL's 500 first-class rooms in three hotel property in Subic, soon-to-be seven restaurants, eight shopping arcades, 10 function rooms, three swimming pools, two karaoke centers, ballroom, and the company's recently renovated state-of-the-art casino-entertainment complex," he says.

El Centro recently hosted "Starlight Cabaret" with two weekend performances of dancers from the Estonian Dance Agency. It also featured the live telecast of boxer Brian Villoria's recent fight.

Khoo personally supervised the construction of El Centro, from its conception to approval of budget and materials used.

Khoo observes that the number of rooms and other facilities in the Freeport, while not exactly large by national and international standards, is good enough to make Subic an alternative convention destination.

But more rooms need to be put up.

"We definitely need more rooms and entertainment facilities," he says. "My own estimate is an additional 5,000 rooms and two or more centers are needed at the very minimum for Subic to be a significant player in the business industry, at least within the country."

DMCI Homes, popular developer of in-city, resort-residential communities, is conducting a month-long exhibit at the ground floor of Waltermart in Makati to showcase the company's latest condominium projects—Aman Garden Residences in Parañaque, Mayfield Park Residences in Pasig and Mahogany Place in Taguig. The sales exhibit will run until today. For inquiries, call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com.

Chocolate-making workshop for kids

MAKE YOUR CHILDREN'S school break this summer productive by letting them learn the technique of easy chocolate making and moulding in a day-long seminar on chocolate making for kids on April 8, Saturday at the Vermont Blooms Unlimited at 9 Anonas Rd., Project 3, Quezon City from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The participants will be taught of how to mix and mold chocolate in various shapes and forms from their favorite cartoon character to floral and fun shape designs.

Parents and *yaya*'s could accompany their kids to the seminar venue. *For questions, call 952-29-34, 952-40-28, 913-65-51, 951-29-66 and 913-65-51.*

DOT creates first computerized jobs databank

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) is setting up a high-tech hiring system and info-technology infrastructure for the Tourism Jobs Fair, which will be staged in Cebu City on April 3 to 5, Davao City on April 4 to 6, and Manila on April 6 to 8.

Intended exclusively for the travel and tourism industry, the fair constitutes the initial phase of the DOT's "TourismJOBs (Jobs, Opportunities, Business)" program, which is designed to address the dearth of qualified talents to fill up job openings in tourism, the need for improvement of the current BS Tourism curriculum to meet the actual needs of tourism enterprises, and the absence of continuing skills training to upgrade the competence of the labor force.

The event will go beyond the usual concept of job fairs by serving as DOT's one-stop venue for employers, academe and the labor sector to assess each other's needs and create an employment match.

The TourismJOBs Program Secretariat (tel. 5251153, 5259318 loc. 229/230/231) is urging employers, schools and applicants for various tourism-related jobs to register online (www.tourismjobs.ph).

The website is available all year round. It will continue to gather vacancy postings from tourism industry employers and applications from job seekers even after the fair. Employers and applicants who have already registered may continue to access their profiles for updates, see new vacancy listings and post new job slots.

During online or onsite registration, a unique identification number (UIN) will be issued to every applicant.

China autonomous region trade fair to end today

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMmerce of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, one of China's important provincial government organizations, which administrates and coordinates international trade & economic cooperation, domestic trade and other affairs has been holding a the Guangxi Commodities Exhibition since March 30 and will end today the World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM).

This showcase of Guangxi is sponsored by the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and organized by Guangxi Department of Commerce. Other supporting business and organizations include Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Philippines, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. and Filipino-Chinese Amity Club Inc.

The import and export trade volume between Guangxi and the Philippines has reached $12.53 million in 2004 and $15 million in 2005 respectively.

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Ballet business booms

VELLA Damian and Gia Bote

THE SIGNIFICANT number of ballet schools around the metro not only signifies the profitability of such a business endeavor—it also asserts that Filipinos have unquestionable talent and skills for dance.

Vella C. Damian, a noted dramatic ballerina whose talent and passion have made her world-famous, has teamed up with entrepreneurs Gie and Gerry Bote for a partnership that recently launched the "Vibeca and Vella C. Damian Ballet Studio."

Damian and the Bote couple both own and run distinctive ballet schools, but following a common vision to "make the highest standard of classical ballet training available far and wide," the partners decided to forge the alliance for a new direction in the ballet school industry.

Formerly called Vibeca Danskul, the studio is located at Cubao, Quezon City, and owned by the Bote couple. It was opened in year 2003 and enjoyed modest success for its wide variety of dance classes catering to students from all ages and proficiency levels. Late last year however, the Bote couple decided to implement a long-ranging plan to move to another location in Mindanao Avenue and subsequently close the Cubao studio.

"Gie and Gerry's two daughters were my ballet students when they were in grade school, and after seeing their family again after so many years, I heard about their plan to transfer to Mindanao Ave. I just casually mentioned that it was a pity for them to close the studio, since it has established a reputation and is so well-equipped, so Gie made a kind of informal offer if I was interested in running it, and I said yes," Damian relates.

Damian, who trained in New York and performed all over the world during her heyday as a ballerina, holds an outstanding resume which has led her to establish the School of Ballet and Dance Arts, now known as the Vella C. Damian School of Ballet. It has five branches: a main studio in Mayon, Quezon City; school-based studios at Sta. Isabel College, St. Paul College Pasig, and St. Paul University Quezon City; at the New Manila Ballet Center, and now, the Vibeca and Vella C. Damian Ballet.

She is also the coauthor of the National Ballet Syllabus and the Philippine coordinator of the Australian Conservatoire of Ballet (ACB) Syllabus (Russian-Vaganova Method) written by Christine Walsh. As such, the Vibeca and Vella C. Damian Ballet will follow this syllabus which is implemented in all of Damian's schools.

Her reputation as a respected figure in the ballet world complements the Bote couple's business acumen. Aside from the ballet school, Gie and Gerry Bote also own and run Agrikultura Pilipina Inc., the country's largest producer of anthuriums.

"Both Vibeca Ballet and Vella Damian Ballet School run respectable and strong operations invidiually. Both bring foundational strengths into the new company. Vibeca is strong in business operations and Vella Damian's strength is in the technical aspects of running a school," says Gie.

The partnership also aims for an immediate increase in total student enrolment, which will boost revenues at a lower cost of operating.

"As the partnership generates more funds that will be pumped back into the school operations, the school is able to implement programs to further improve teaching efficiency. Over the long-term, we see Vibeca and Vella C. Damian Ballet more intensely empowered to inspire a large population of young people to realize their artistic dreams," Gie further explains.

The new partnership takes effect this summer season, in time to accommodate vacationing students. Damian will serve as the Ballet Directress while Gie will retain her role as School Administrator.

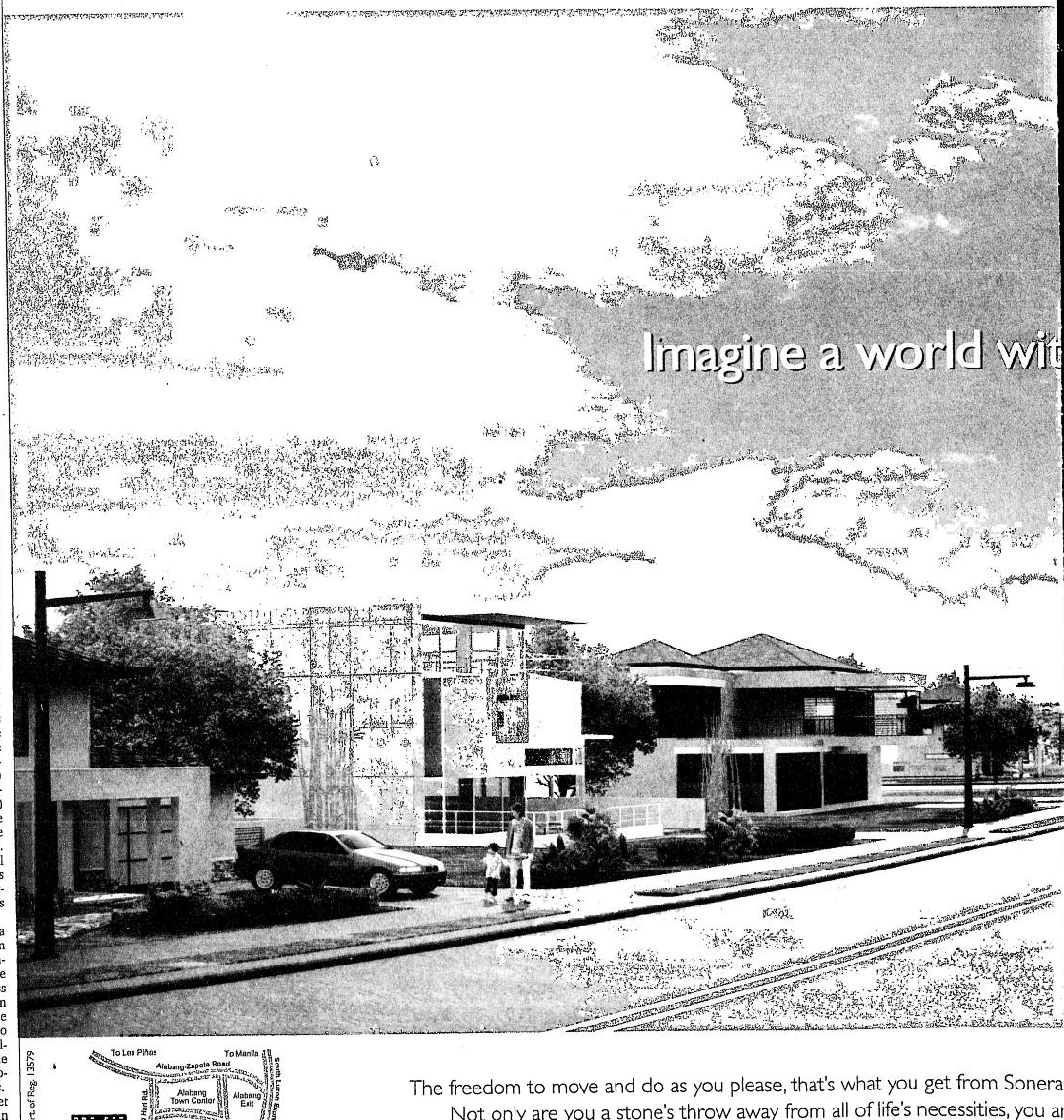
"As Ballet Directress, I will oversee artistic and technical aspects and make sure our teachers are competent. We will also alternate examinations with school concerts every other year, so that we are more focused on the training program," Damian adds.

Vibeca and Vella C. Damian Ballet will also offer other types of dance including jazz, streetdancing, and contemporary dance, among others.

Damian and Gie note that running a ballet school is profitable enough, which is why many institutions are offering the same services. The difference however, manifests on the students themselves, whether they have been trained well and are confident enough to perform on stage.

"There is enough room for more top caliber ballet schools. There are more than enough potential students in the population. In fact, more competition results in better awareness about the contribution of ballet to the development of the youth, especially in the areas of discipline and commitment. We put up a ballet school not because it is lucrative but because of our passion to help young people discover their potential in performing arts, and help them maximize such potential," Gie concluded.

Vibeca and Vella C. Damian Ballet, located at he ground floor of the AMO Building, 92 New York St., Cubao, Quezon City, offers summer workshops in classical ballet, jazz and street dancing starting April. For inquiries, call 912-4283,912-6781 or 9957441.



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From grandma's labels to high-tech machines

Sock maker started with 48 pairs every eight hours; now it's 6,500 pairs every 24 hours

MACHINES can even put your picture on the socks.
RODEL ROTONI

By Alexa H. Bacay

IT STARTED IN 1967 AS A BACKyard business with two machines and a few workers, producing only two dozen pairs of socks per machine every eight hours. At the time, Ruddy Tan, general manager of Burlington Industries Philippines, says even his grandmother was helping with the labeling. Now, the company, renamed Burlington Industries from Mil-Oro Manufacturing Corp., produces 6,500 pairs of socks, 24 hours a day.

"Maybe it was the vision of my uncle Pete Tan," says Ruddy of Burlington's success. Pete is the president of Burlington Industries. He believed that "socks are a very basic commodity."

The biggest challenge the company had to overcome is finding a place in the market. When Burlington started, there were only a few players but "being new in the industry you have to establish your niche and create a demand for your product."

In the late '70s, Burlington would only be made known to people through their print ads.

In the '80s it became aggressive in marketing and promotions and got basketball player Norman Black as their endorser.

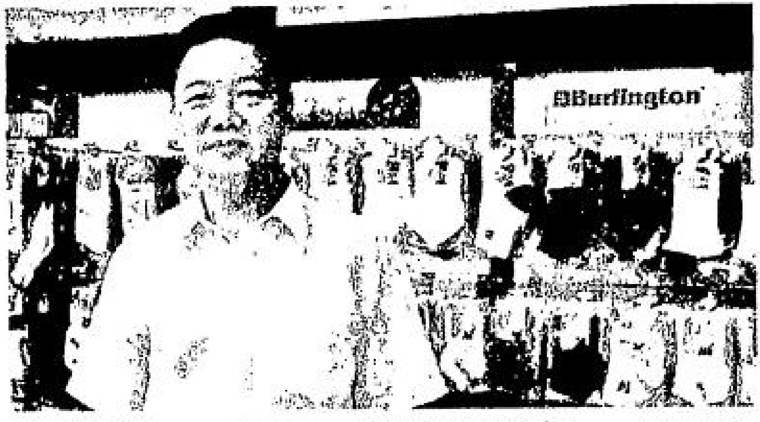
In 1986 they used TV ads to widen their reach on the market.

In the '90s, they launched the Burlington Basketball tips which were basketball techniques shown on TV in between PBA breaks. Because of this, Burlington received a special citation from the Catholic Mass Media Awards in 1990.

Today, although it enjoys more popularity, Burlington has to compete with foreign brands that have penetrated the local market scene as well.

"We've been established," Ruddy says on how he manages to compete with the other brands. "We're almost nearing our 40th [year] na, so it would be our experience in the industry on how for the past 30 plus years we've been doing socks from morning to evening. We can say we have the expertise.

"We're also always trying to come up with something new for the market," he adds. "You need to take care of your first business, which is socks," says Ruddy. "It's really getting competitive because of the globalization of market. So you have importation, price war, but we've always been focusing on quality."


RUDDY TAN, general manager of Burlington Socks
RODEL ROTONI

Its research and development team continuously comes up with product innovations to suit the growing needs of the market.

Their latest innovation is the Burlington Shock XT, which is an impact absorbing sock designed to prevent injuries for athletes who play on hard surfaces. It has extra thick shock pads that cushion the foot and protect knee joints in the process. Its yarn construction assists in the prevention of blisters and abrasion.

"Well, the concept of the socks is to give proper support to the feet of the athlete," explains Ruddy. "If you have injuries in the ankles, and then in the knees, then literally you can't play anymore."

In October last year, Burlington launched its Biofresh antimicrobial socks that help keep the feet odor free.

They're also trying to find a niche in the bag industry by coming up with the Trek Gear and Impact which targets the youth for their school needs and for outdoor activities.

Every company is not without their share of obstacles. Burlington also went through some financial difficulties.

"We had to regroup," explains Ruddy which resulted in Burlington eventually becoming a family business.

Ruddy believes that having built a name for their brand, the next target would be expansion.

"We've invested a lot on the brand in terms of quality and the advertisements that we did, so in the future if we could come up with a complete product line, that would be our next target," he explains.

Burlington has license to manufacture Puma Sports socks, Bally Formal socks and Camp Outdoor socks. They're also licensing the Slazenger and Baleno brands.

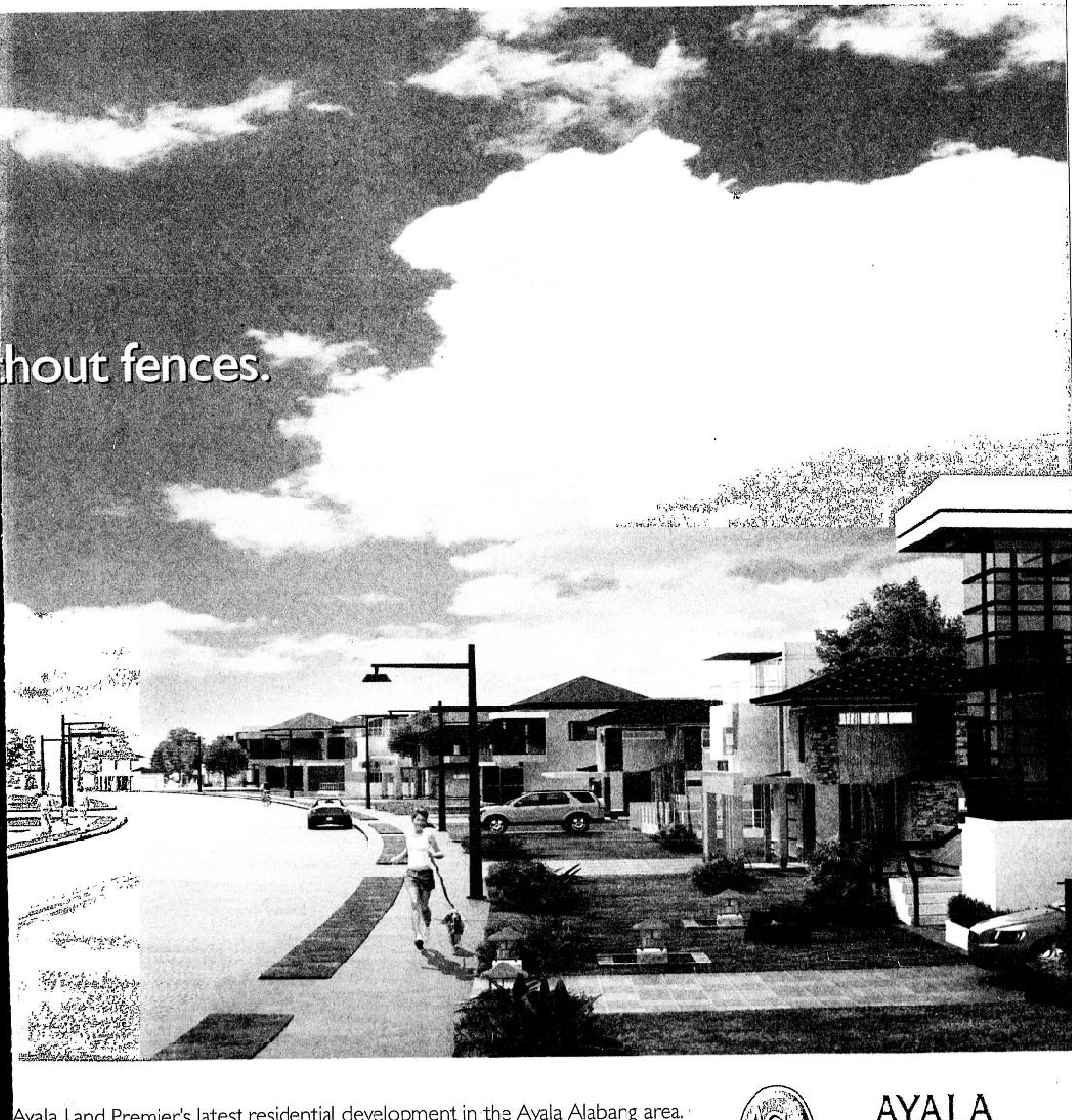
"I think one of our advantages now is the modernization of equipment wherein we phased out all our mechanical machines and replaced them with computerized machines," says Ruddy. He cites that the computerized machines are very flexible. "I can take your picture and from that, *yung* face *mo* will come out *sa* socks!

"Our direction is to come out with something more innovative something different—different and useful to the consumer. Not only in the design, but something functional as well," adds Ruddy.

As an advertising tool, Burlington sponsors the Philippine Basketball Association and has been the "official socks" of the PBA since 1989.

As part of the corporate thrust of prompting youth in sports development Ruddy started the RP Youth Cage Team in 2002. The team won the 2004 Seaba Junior Championship in Lucena in 2004.

Burlington is also a major sponsor of Norman Black's Basketball Skills Camp which is a specialized and intensive basketball training camp. This involves basketball's contemporary and past superstars going from school to school to share their knowledge and skills in the court with the youth.



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ASV AYALA SOUTHVALE VILLAGE SONERA

Business opportunities and success stories

Hard work, patience and honesty are this lady's secret to success

FOR ANY PERSON "recruited" to get into an MLM (multi-level marketing) business or network marketing, the opportunity will be viewed with skepticism. For the JC Spice Corp., this story stands out to illustrate the triumph of the ordinary Filipino's quest for a better or more meaningful life. These interviews were mostly conducted in the vernacular and translated to English.

ATIENZA

Leonora C. Atienza, maker of Savona herbal soap, is a wife and mother of five children whose story weaves from a P500 missed SSS monthly payment; and a foreclosure notice for a house she was paying for to how she managed to acquire two houses since then.

Living a hard life in the mid 90s, with a growing young family, she began a career as a bath soap agent. Later, her customers bombarded her with questions about the soap which she couldn't answer. She wasn't even satisfied with the soap itself and so, she decided to take a different route by making her own soap and finding ways to make a better soap. Signing up for a soap-making seminar at the DTI, the three-day course was not enough to make you a soap manufacturer expert but Aling Nora's inherent trait is her persistence and single-mindedness. When she decides to pursue something, she is determined to see it through in spite any hardships.

"When we started it was just a backyard business. I started with my children. I borrowed my capital."

She recalls the very hard beginnings from their house in Antipolo, Rizal at which time she also joined and became a dealer of Boston Company, one of the forerunner direct selling companies of JC Spice president, Joey Castro. The opportunity knocked when Aling Nora was still with Boston in the late '90s. Joey and Dina Castro had already begun JC Martin and were looking for a soap supplier.

"Aling Nora" as she is fondly called, brought her sample and saw the competition from the products with branded names laid out on the table. So it was with great surprise that her soap was chosen among the more familiar names. She learned later that the JC Martin president himself tried it and was satisfied. And from then on, they agreed to help each other and be partners in developing the soap and making it available to the market.

Dinna Castro, being the product development director took charge of the packaging and that was how Savonna, JC Spice's fastest selling soap was born.

"When they chose our product, I thanked God. Sir Joey and Ma'am Dinna were easy to talk to," she says.

After her short seminar at DTI, with her handouts to guide her, she spent much money on trial and error formula in concocting her soap, but she never gave up and until now, tries to improve on it.

From the values she learned in her personal life which she applied to her own family and the way she runs her business, as manufacturer-supplier to JC Spice, she feels most at ease and at home with the couple who gave her the push to make Savonna what it is today.

Life has changed dramatically since for the Atienza family but simple and frugal living are still applied. She also applies a hands-on policy to her business even if she has people working for her now. Not leaving anything to chance that might create irreparable damages must be avoided at all cost. The Filipino value of "pagtulong sa kapwa," is also a tenet to Aling Nora's business ethics. And being with the JC family, from the very beginning, Aling Nora matured in her business acumen with all the learning she had and found the ideal partners in the people, whom she trusts and shares same values with, and who, helped her get started as a manufacturer-supplier.

She advises would-be entrepreneurs, especially those with humble beginnings like her, of three things if they want to succeed in business, which she emphasized as a networker in the JC company: "Even when I was still a networker, when I was training people I would tell them that to succeed, you have to be hardworking, patient and honest. These three are needed in whatever you do. Without these you will get nowhere."

DRESSING ROOM

BELINDA DY

Daughter's fascination evolves into a franchising venture for mom

HER DAUGHTER'S ATTRACTION to stuffed animals created for Ma. Belinda Dy a business opportunity.

Dy brought into the country the first create-your-own-stuffed-animal craze pioneered by Animaland, an international, mall-based group of retail stores and kiosks that allow stuffed-animal lovers all over the world to create and dress their own stuffed-animal.

"We discovered the possibilities when we were shopping in the US and saw young and old alike, beaming happily and carrying cradles with stuffed toys inside. Then, we found out that it's a do-it-yourself thingy. My daughter fell in love with the idea, thus, inspiring me to bring home the concept," says Dy, Animaland's Chief Executive Bear in the Philippines.

She continued, "Definitely, there's big money in franchising, especially with Animaland since this is very unique. Animaland is the first complete create-your-own-stuffed-animal business in the country, which gives guests an unforgettable experience of personalizing their stuffed toys. This is very interactive and I believe our guests, from ages 2-100, would love to get involved into something that is created by their own hands."

With the help of our Junior and Senior Bear-builders, a guest goes through eight interactive stations: 1) Choose Your Animal Skin (with over 40 animal skins to choose from), 2) Stuff Your Animal (our fluff is fine and hypo-allergenic), 3) Make A Wish For Your Animal (where you put the wishing star inside your animal), 4) Hear Your Animal (where you could record your personalized greetings or your own choice of songs), 5) Fluff Your Animal (where your animal takes an air bath to get clean), 6) Dress Your Animal (choose from our wide range of outfits—swimwear, rocker, fashionista, etc.—and accessories), 7) Name Your Animal (where you can christen your stuffed animal and even get his own birth certificate), and the last station, Take Home Your Animal, where you're given a cradle to carry your new friend.

Animaland plans to open other highly-interactive stations such as the Animal Salon (complete with wigs and other hair accessories), Animal Hospital (for broken or worn-out animals), Animal Nursery (for baby animals) and Animal Eye Clinic (for guests who want their toy's eyes customized).

Dy did not hesitate to invest in America's Animaland, which is also famous in United Kingdom, Australia, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

"The entire process, in itself, is enticing and interesting. So, that alone is already saleable. More so, with franchising, particularly if it's a global brand, you are assured of international standards that boast of quality service. Also, with the help of our mother company in USA, we are able to support franchisees all the way, starting from day 1—from the operations, training of personnel, inventories, to advertising, and marketing. Meaning, less worries for beginners in the business as we guide them each step of the way."

In fact, in the short span of time since Animaland Philippines was established in December 2005, Dy has been receiving overwhelming feedback from guests, most of them returning ones.

"It's addicting. You'd fall in love with the "process" because it's like giving birth to your own baby. And each animal, which would roughly cost P500, to P1,500 with accessories, is a collector's item because every one of them is a limited edition animal as new items get in every season.

Dy says that Animaland's main goal is to provide an interactive entertainment experience based on love and friendship that connects people to stuffed animals and to one another; that with Animaland's stuffed-animal-friends, Dy hopes their guests would be able to spread more love and joy to humankind. A member of Francorp, Animaland is open for franchising. For queries call 5637881 or 5612380. Or visit Animaland at the 3rd level of City Walk 2, Eastwood City, 4th level of Shangri-La Mall, and 3rd level of Powerplant Mall and soon at Toy Kingdom at the Mall of Asia.

From garment-making to direct-selling

TO REMAIN IN THE FOREFRONT of fashion direct selling and networking for 14 years no joke.

Armed with nothing but their high hopes and burning desire to help others alleviate their means of living, Bernard and Imelda Madera set up Boardwalk.

Boardwalk grew from a garment maker to a direct-selling and networking firm.

According to Business Development head, Glenda Pingol, "What makes our business work is the fact that we get to help every Filipino family realize their dreams by offering them equal opportunity to avail of our business facility and start their own businesses with manageable investment. One could even grow their business and earn as high as hundreds of thousands with minimal investment as low as P500 only.

Boardwalk has positioned its branches all over the country. Right now, they have 23 branches, 26 information centers and a fully computerized system which allows its members to monitor their sales performances and their earnings wherever they are. To balance their expansion program, Boardwalk is continuously moving even to the far flung areas of the country to accommodate the needs of the growing number of Filipino consumers.

Boardwalk offers free membership to interested individuals all year round. There are more than 500,000 members and business partners today. Boardwalk president Bernard Madera said, "What we offer is a risk-free business. We make our members set their own pace and encourage them to challenge themselves as to how much money they would like to earn. We groom them; help them develop their potentials to the fullest, in that way we value the presence of each other in the business. We practice co-existence as an important element to keep our business going and we are committed to keep it that way."

A member can get lifetime basic discounts, earn from their personal selling activities or share the business privileges through recruitment and networking with their friends. They can get the change to have their own career growth at their own pace and time. Boardwalk's partnership support with their members extends to the point of investing and developing them through continuous training and education, making sure that every partner is equipped with good marketing and entrepreneurial skill to guarantee success.

"We listen and listen to the requirements of the consumers with utmost sincerity which leads us to the development of products that are fashionable, tailored-fit and very much affordable which an ordinary consumer can enjoy without having to spend an entire paycheck," stated Pingol.

For questions, go to a Boardwalk branch or business information center or call 636-6321-23/631-9999.

Culture influences how money is saved

NEW YORK—WHEN SUYIN TSUI has an extra $2.50 lying around, rather than spend it, she will cut back on her expenses so that she ends up having $3.00 to save.

"I can buy groceries that are cheaper or postpone buying new clothes for myself," said Tsui, an immigrant homemaker from Taiwan who lives in Parsippany, New Jersey.

Most Americans, however, practice very different saving habits from Tsui. Last year the US household saving rate was negative for the first time since the Great Depression.

With interest rates so low, consumers have been depending heavily on credit to supplement their incomes, making them potentially vulnerable to shocks in the economy. Low financing rates made it easier to splurge on new cars and electronics and not just in the United States but countries like Britain and New Zealand as well.

Meanwhile, many European and east Asian countries have relatively high rates of saving. In fact, total saving in east Asian countries amounts to nearly 40 percent of their economic output, compared with only 20 percent in developed economies.

Yet, economics and finance can only account for so much of such a significant difference in saving rates. Common beliefs and behavior patterns—in short, culture—may affect saving as much as economic factors, analysts said.

Analysts say quirks in statistics on income, investment and taxes can exaggerate the differences in saving rates between some countries. They also point out saving rates in the last 30 years have been generally falling around the world.

"But when you make all these adjustments, you are still left with what appear to be cultural differences," said Barry Bosworth, economist with the Brookings Institution in Washington.

When it comes to saving, one of the key differences between Asian and American cultures has to do with the reason why people save in the first place, said Bosworth, whose work has focused on the difference in saving patterns between Japan and the United States.

Unlike Americans, Asians have what Bosworth called a "dynastic" view of saving, meaning they often are motivated to accumulate wealth for use beyond their own lifetimes.

"An American might think in terms of saving for their own retirement, but an Asian will think of accumulating resources in terms of saving for their family, for multiple generations in the future," he explained.

Many political leaders and economists have warned the lack of US saving could worsen as baby boomers exit from the workforce. As an economics rule of thumb, retirees tend to deplete their savings while workers add to savings.

At a time when many companies are having to renege on pension promises made to workers, lack of saving can make the future for retirees seem dire.

Furthermore, lack of US saving underscores the breadth of global financial imbalances that many analysts say will at some point have to be corrected.

Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke has argued that a global "savings glut" in countries such as China and Japan has sent large amounts of capital overseas to the United States, helping to finance the enormous US trade deficit, which hit a record $723.62 billion last year.

However, if high saving countries decide to slow their purchases of US financial assets, interest rates would rise and possibly drag on the economy—a reason politicians and economists say US saving needs to improve soon.

Differences in world view also account for why some cultures save more than others, analysts say.

China, the world's fourth largest economy, has an extraordinarily high national saving rate—which includes government and corporate saving—of 50 percent of gross domestic product.

"The Chinese have a deeply entrenched and historically justified sense that the world is unsafe," said Tom Doctoroff, author of "Billions: Selling to the New Chinese-Consumer" and chief executive of JWT Greater China, one of the largest ad agencies in Asia.

"The high saving rate in China is a defense against uncertainty," he said.

Americans, on the other hand, have an essentially optimistic view of the world and a confidence that US political and economic institutions will basically work. And that world view contributes to a complacency about saving enough for the future.

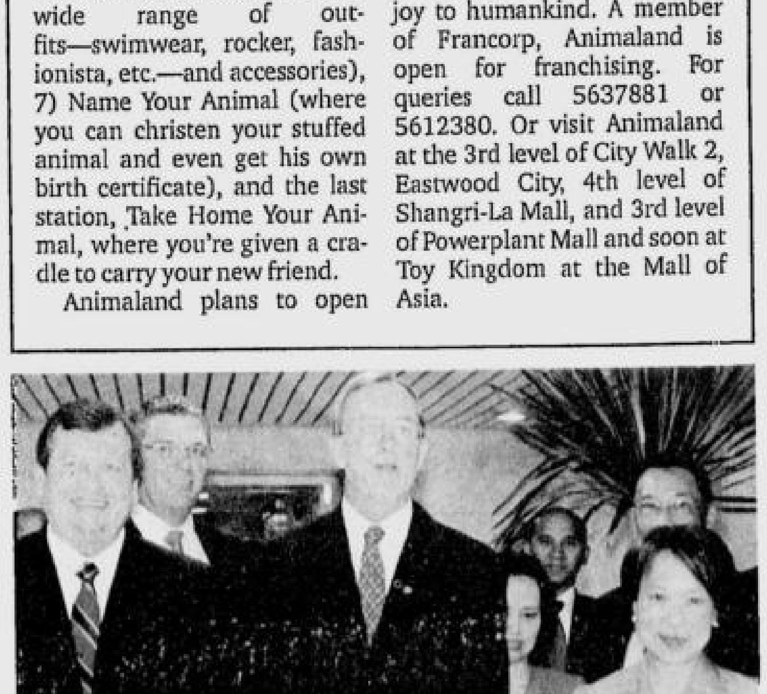
"The United States is a country where people see the future as better and see themselves as making a better future for themselves," said Martin Baily, senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics in Washington.

The rosy view of the future needs to be given a dose of reality, analysts generally reckon. Low or negative household saving leaves many people vulnerable to sudden shocks to the economy, such as spikes in energy costs or another Sept. 11-type attack.

"We can improve saving," said JWT's Doctoroff. "But until the day arrives in which we fundamentally change our world view, it will not be a true 'culture of saving.'" he said.

Perhaps, it will take a change of world view or just plain old grit. Tsui, a retired accountant, plans out her monthly expenses by assigning a name to each expense, such "gasoline" or "medicine." When asked whether she would like to do things in her retirement like travel, she said, "Travel doesn't have a name yet."

Reuters



HT & T Travel Phils. Australian Ambassador Tony Hely (center) graced the opening recently of the Philippine office of HT & T Travel, Inc., general sales agent of Qantas Airways Ltd. on the 10th floor of the Dona Salustiana D. Ty Tower on Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. HT & T Philippines president and GM Honeybee Hubahib (right) welcomed the ambassador and other guests, Rob Gurney (left), Qantas head of sales and marketing, Stephen Limbrick, Qantas regional manager-Southeast Asia, and Dennis Choo (partly hidden), Holiday Tours & Travel Pte. Ltd. managing director.

Unilab reaches out to more indigent patients nationwide

UNITED LABORATORIES INC (UNILAB), THE country's largest and leading pharmaceutical company, supported 1,038 medical missions in 2005 through its product donation program. The medical missions have benefited more than 300,000 patients in 112 towns and 64 cities throughout the country.

Unilab's product donation program is integral to its corporate social responsibility (CSR) which aims to make safe and effective medicines accessible to as many indigent patients as possible. To achieve this, Unilab donates its healthcare products to charitable institutions, local parishes and socio-civic groups that conduct medical and dental missions throughout the country. In 2005 alone, Unilab extended assistance to 1,038 medical missions that benefited children, mothers, elderly and indigenous people like the Dumagats, Igorots and Aetas.

Unilab has also initiated partnerships with major local companies in undertaking medical missions and feeding programs for children. These companies include Ayala Corporation, San Miguel Corp, CDO Foodsphere, Globe Telecoms, among others.

Unilab has likewise instituted an accredited donees program where institutions are served with medicines monthly for a period of one year. The accredited donees include Virlanie Foundation, Chosen Children Foundation, DSWD Sanctuary Center, Luwalhati ng Maynila and Anawim House for Elderly, among others. Employee volunteers from various Unilab divisions have likewise been mobilized to conduct visitations and interaction activities with the beneficiaries.

Besides its product donation program, Unilab has also been supporting the Gawad Kalinga Arkong Bato community in Pasig City. Last year, it donated 60 houses in addition to 31 houses earlier built. It also funded the building of the three-storey multipurpose hall that is used as classroom, library, clinic and function hall. Unilab also conducted a TB and Nutrition program where 200 Arkong Bato children with primary complex were treated for free.

Unilab also supports the government's efforts against public health issues. Last December, Unilab donated US $1.25 million worth of anti-bird flu medicines to the Department of Health. It also donated P25 million worth of Enervon multivitamins to the Department of Agriculture to increase body resistance of poultry workers in the country. Unilab has likewise initiated the Corporate Coalition against Bird Flu with major local companies to share information on preventive measures and ensure business continuity if and when there is a bird flu pandemic.

OPERATION SMILE PHILIPPINES ELECTS NEW TRUSTEES

Operation Smile Philippines Foundation Inc (OSP) elected recently the members of its Board of Trustees for 2006-2007. Shown are (from left, front row) John Go representing Liwayway Marketing president Oszen Chan, Ramon Isberto representing Smart president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno, UCPB president and CEO Jose Querubin, Sugar Industry Foundation president and COO Edith Villanueva, E. Zobel Foundation chair Dee Anne Hora-Zobel, ABS-CBN Bantay Bata 163 program director Tina Monzon-Palma, San Miguel Corp vice president for corporate affairs Ramon Santiago, Johnson & Johnson Medical Phils managing director Carlos Vitasa, public relations practitioner Roberto Manzano and IBM Phils president and CEO Joaquin Quintos IV; (from left, back row) Citadel Holdings president Jose Ricardo Delgado, Citigroup country officer Sanjiv Vohra, Yehey Corp president Donald Patrick Lim, and plastic surgeon Dr. Laurence Loh. Not in photo is United Laboratories director for corporate affairs Alberto Manlapit. OSP has been providing free reconstructive surgeries to indigent Filipinos with oral cleft since 1982. To date,it has treated more than 17,000 children and young adults.

Asian Eye Institute delivers good news for diabetics

DIABETIC RETINOPATHY IS AN EYE disease due to complications of diabetes. If not treated and controlled early, this complication can lead to blindness. But Dr. Amadeo Veloso Jr., one of Asian Eye Institute's retina specialists, has good news: "A diabetic can actually prevent this complication from happening." He emphasizes three things. One, good control of a patient's blood sugar level with medications; two, exercise; and three, proper diet.

"When a patient's blood sugar level is elevated for a long period of time, the chance that diabetic retinopathy will develop is much greater. This is because high blood sugar levels damage the tiny blood vessels inside the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye. A healthy retina is necessary for good vision. The key in controlling this disease is to properly manage and control the level of blood sugar," he said. In the same breath, he likewise acknowledges that his advice is easier said than done. "Controlling the blood sugar level is the best way of preserving the vision of diabetics," he says.

Now how can a diabetic know if he has diabetic retinopathy? Sadly, according to Dr. Veloso, Diabetic retinopathy often has no early warning signs. Diabetic patients should not wait for symptoms. It is only in the advanced stage of the disease that patient's will observe blurring of vision and floaters. Vision can be affected if fluid leaks into the center of the macula, the part of the eye where sharp, straight-ahead vision occurs, and if fragile, abnormal blood vessels develop and leak blood into the center of the eye, blurring vision.

That is why retina experts like Dr. Veloso advise diabetics to have a comprehensive dilated eye exam at least once a year since only a thorough clinical examination of a patient's eyes can detect diabetic retinopathy. "If diabetic retinopathy and macular edema is suspected and may need treatment" Dr. Veloso adds, "patients should undergo fluorescein angiogram."

"We have specific treatments based on the nature and extent of the disease or damage. In the early stages of the disease, we tell our patients that the most important thing to do is to control their levels of blood sugar, blood pressure, and blood cholesterol to prevent progression. Patients do not need laser treatment at this point," he reveals. "However, if macular edema or swelling develops, patients may benefit from laser treatment. The procedure is called focal laser treatment. This treatment slows the leakage of fluid and reduces the amount of fluid in the retina. This treatment may stabilize vision. On the other hand, for proliferative diabetic retinopathy, the laser procedure is called scatter laser treatment. Scatter laser treatment helps to shrink the abnormal blood vessels. If bleeding is severe in the eye, you may need a surgical procedure called a vitrectomy. During a vitrectomy, blood is removed from the center of the eye. All these procedures are aimed at preserving the retina, thereby stabilizing the vision, and prevent further damage. These treatments have high success rates. However they do not cure diabetic retinopathy. They just help control the damage brought about by the disease." Dr. Veloso says.

For inquiries about diabetic retinopathy, please call 898-2020 or e-mail eyehelp@asianeyeinstitute.com. You may also log on to www.asianeyeinstitute.com for more information about this progressive eye problem.

CHOWKING FLOAT WINS PANAGBENGA HALL OF FAME AWARD

Chowking won the Best Floral Float award (Hall of Fame) in the recently concluded 2006 Panagbenga Flower Festival in Baguio City. This year's float themed 'The Family in Harmony with Nature' is the third year in a row that Chowking came out the judges' favorite in terms of symbolisms and visual creativity. Despite the win, the company still intends to participate in the annual event even in the non-competing category in the coming years.

TONI GONZAGA FOR SHAPES WEAR

TV host and actress Toni Gonzaga signs a contract with Shapes Wear as image model and endorser. Present during the contract signing were: Shapes GM Aldy Timbang, merchandising head Amphie Cinco, Carlito Gonzaga, Shapes CEO Augusto Viray, Crisanta Gonzaga, Shapes assistant CEO Richard Romero, and NS Advantage Ad Agency's Tet Navarro, Gloria Sy and Jason Angulo.

Bits Clips

45th ACI World Congress

ACI PHILIPPINES, TOGETHER WITH STRATEGIC marketing communications consultancy TeamAsia, will present the 45th ACI World Congress in Manila on May 25-27 at the Philippine International Convention Center. The World Congress is an annual gathering of the world's financial markets leaders and an initiative of the ACI-Financial Markets Association - the largest umbrella association of financial institutions in the world with 69 member countries and more than 14,000 members.

Ice Age 2 Mania at Ministop

THE FUN AND UNUSUAL PREHISTORIC TRIO OF Manfred the woolly mammoth, Sid the sloth, and Diego the saber-toothed tiger are back in the big screen with Ice Age 2: The Meltdown. This time they are bringing their primitive adventure to the nearest Ministop store, with cool Ice Age 2 collectible items. For every P60 single receipt purchase of any of the participating grocery products, customers can get clever Ice Age goodies for free such as Ice Age character key chains, picture frames and stickers. Moreover, if you buy any Ministop Hot Snacks like the ready-to-eat Pasta or Rice Meals with regular drink, just add P20 and you get a 22oz drink in an Ice Age character tumbler. So rush now to your nearest Ministop store and collect all these limited Ice Age 2 freebies available until May 4 only.

AirAsia-Celcom Prepaid Starter Pack launched

CELCOM (MALAYSIA) BERHAD, TOGETHER WITH AirAsia, has launched a new offering called the AirAsia-Celcom Prepaid Starter Pack. For a four month period until June 2006, customers stand to enjoy the benefits of only 5 cents per minute calls and 1 cent per SMS to two registered 013 or 019 Celcom numbers in Malaysia. Alternatively, they can substitute one of the local 013 or 019 numbers with one IDD number to one of the 10 selected countries to enjoy the most competitive IDD rates for calls made to these countries from Malaysia. Priced at just RM4.99, the AirAsia-Celcom Prepaid Starter Pack is available nationwide at the 49 Celcom Service Centres, Celcom's dealer outlets, AirAsia outlets and onboard AirAsia flights.

M&M's, Duty Free promo

MASTERFOODS PHILS INC makers of M&M's chocolate candies recently launched an exclusive promo for Duty Free Philippines dubbed as Guessing M's. This will run until April 16, at the Duty Free Fiesta Mall. For every purchase of 1 pasalubong bag , customers is entitled to 3 raffle coupons for a chance to guess how many M&M's chocolate candies are inside the giant lentil bowl. Prizes at stake are M&M's Giant and Regular Plush Toys. This is the company's way of welcoming our overseas workers and balikbayans.

Mario's Restaurant promo

GRADUATES CAN ENJOY A WELL-DESERVED break and be treated to a complimentary Casa Special like chicken parmesan, breaded chicken fillet served with Fettucine Alfredo or barbecued spareribs, meaty ribs with a special sauce, when you dine with your family and friends at Mario's Restaurant from March 15 to May 31. Graduates are requested to bring their IDs. Call Mario's at 415-3887 or 372-0360.

China Bank's Home Plus loan rate stays lower, longer

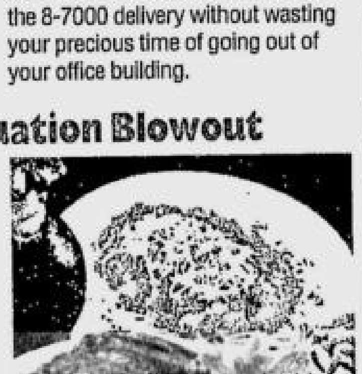
BUILDING, OWNING OR RENOVATING A HOME IS now more affordable. China Bank keeps its home loan interest rate to 9.75 percent p.a., the lowest in the industry. This great offer is extended up to April 30. The 9.75 percent p.a. interest rate is fixed for one year. For clients who want to have the interest rate fixed longer as protection from future rate increases, China Bank also offers other low interest rate fixing schemes: 10.50 percent p.a. fixed for 2 years, 11.25 percent per annum fixed for 3 years, and 11.50 percent per annum fixed for 4 or 5 years. The low rates apply to China Bank HomePlus loan applications from Feb. 16 to April 30. A China Bank HomePlus loan is for the purchase of a lot, a house and lot, a townhouse, or a condominium unit, it is also available for renovating a house or refinancing an existing loan with another bank. To apply for a HomePlus loan or to get more information on the special rate, call 885-5555, e-mail homeplus@chinabank.ph, or visit www.chinabank.ph.

ProductFILES

Macaroni Salad Supreme in Jollibee

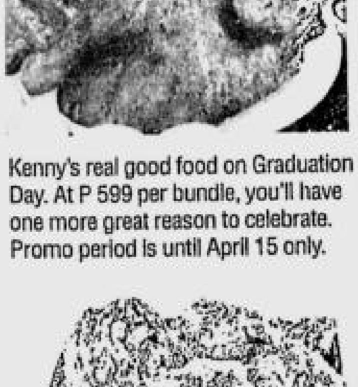
IT'S A CALL FOR CELEBRATION IN the salad family home as Fresh Green Salad now has a new family member in the Macaroni Salad Supreme that people can always look forward to in every Jollibee visit. This unique macaroni salad supreme is a refreshingly delicious salad which has the freshest greens with choiced ingredients like pineapple, tomatoes, carrots and cheese plus original Jollibee chicken chunks, make for a great-tasting treat. It's even affordable for only P67 for a solo order or P31 as a side dish. That is something you can enjoy anytime of the day. What's more, you can have this delicious treat through the 8-7000 delivery without wasting your precious time of going out of your office building.

Kenny Rogers' Graduation Blowout



KENNY ROGERS ROASTERS IS rolling out the red carpet with Kenny's Graduation Blowout. Celebrate this milestone with your choice of Chicken Bundle or Chicken and Rib Bundle. You can choose the Chicken Bundle composed of one whole roast chicken, large spaghetti platter, 2 Large side dishes, 4 steamed rice, 4 halo-halo and one pitcher of Nestea ice tea. Or opt for the Chicken and Rib Bundle compsed one whole slab of rib, one-half chicken either roast or Krispy Fried Chicken, large spaghetti platter, 2 large side dishes, 4 steamed rice and one pitcher of Nestea ice tea. Every Graduation Bundle is good for 4 to 8 persons, so you and the entire family or your barkada can load up on Kenny's real good food on Graduation Day. At P 599 per bundle, you'll have one more great reason to celebrate. Promo period is until April 15 only.

Popeyes Chicken's graduation treats



POPEYES CHICKEN AND SEAFOOD, the world's Favorite Flavor, congratulates the graduating class of 2006 with these special meal combos that you and your party of six will surely enjoy. Feast on Popeyes Chicken and Seafood platters that come completely with rice, drinks, side dishes and desserts for only P375, or only P 62.50 per person. You may also opt for P99 solo rice meals with your choice of one-piece chicken, popcorn shrimp or squid rings, a regular drink, a choice of regular onion rings or regular fries and biscuit ala mode for your dessert. Pop in at any Popeyes branch located at the Greenhills Shopping Center, Robinson's Metro East, New Farmers Cubao, SM Pampanga and Robinson's Place Manila. So, after marching down the graduation aisle, march to Popeyes with your family and barkada and you will surely love that chicken. Promo runs up to April 15 only.

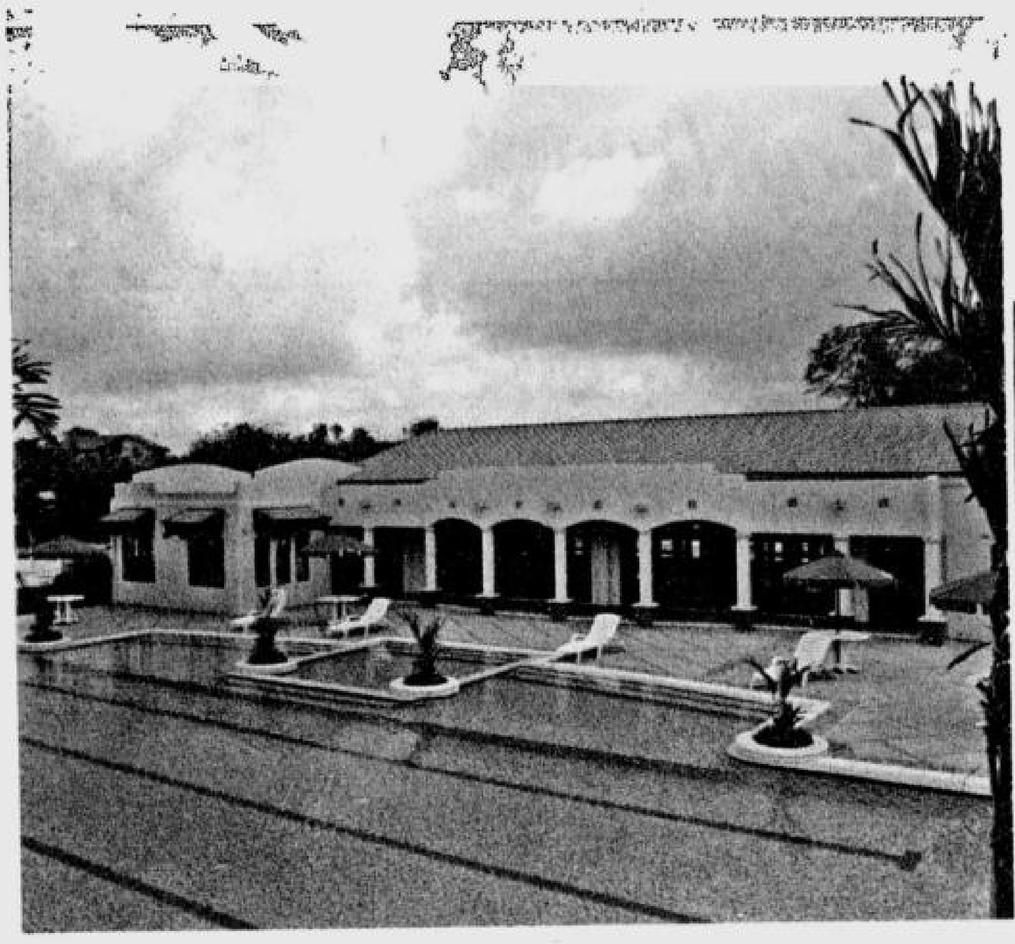
BAYANTEL INKS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH AT&T

BayanTel recently signed a Full Channel Service agreement with AT&T. The new agreement is an enhancement to the existing bilateral agreement between the two. The agreement effectively allows AT&T customers to select BayanTel to provide the 'Philippine Leg' connectivity of their international data circuits. The agreement was signed at the AT&T Corporate Center in Morristown New Jersey on Feb. 2. In photo are (from left): Robert Aulenbach - group manager, international network engineering, AT&T; Jacqui Co-Soriano - partner services consultant, Bayantel; Rao Gadde - regional director, A/P network planning and engineering, AT&T; Vinoo Ramasawak - manager, international network engineering, AT&T; and Jon Arayata - head, new business and partners, Bayantel.

CITIBANK (WEST) FSB PRESIDENT MEETS BSP GOVERNOR

Photo shows Citibank (West), FSB president Calixto Garcia-Velez (3rd from left) during a courtesy call to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco (2nd from right) together with (from left) Citibank Phils' Benjie Oliva and Ailene Litonjua and Citigroup country officer Sanjiv Vohra. Garcia-Velez was in the country to promote Citibank Global Transfers to the Philippines, the remittance service piloted by Citibank in California and Nevada early last year. In their meeting, Garcia-Velez thanked the Governor for his and his team's support to the program.

Let The Sweet Scents Take You Higher



Take your pick from fast-moving Ponderosa Heights premium lots

Each day the garden is different, and new in some way: a flower reaches full bloom; a new cluster of leaves appears; a seed falls, allowing new life to begin. That's the story at Ponderosa Leisure Farms, exclusive residential flower garden village in Silang, Cavite.

Sweet and swift

Just as quickly as the different features and areas of Ponderosa Leisure Farms are coming together—the *Villa Ponderosa Clubhouse, Campo Verde Campsite*, and the *El Refugio and the El Sanctuario Themed Gardens*, to name a few—more and more city residents and garden enthusiasts are drawn like butterflies to the irresistible flower-inspired Ponderosa lifestyle.

Ponderosa Heights: higher and prime

With Ponderosa Leisure Farms (Phase 1) nearly sold-out, developer Landco Pacific Corporation makes a new cluster of lots available for those who missed the first batch: Ponderosa Heights. Set in a prime spot, the lots (17 hectares in total) has higher location and fanciful terrain. The area will feature 4 elegant and ornate garden courts, in which one can enjoy the relaxing space, the breeze, and the exhilarating view.

With an exquisite Spanish-Mexican inspired visual theme, the project offers superb location (Sta. Rosa Highway, just 45 minutes from Makati), crisp Tagaytay weather and climate, and perfect terrain. Lush landscape, and a world of flowers. The wide expanse is dotted by features and amenities designed to bring new colors and flavors to your lifestyle. Maintenance services allow hassle-free gardening.

Coming together

The project continues to bloom: the Villa Ponderosa Clubhouse is getting prepped for all the social action that is to come. With an area that welcomes 80 - 100 people, the structure is another graceful mix of Spanish and Mexican architecture. Its central attraction is a high-ceilinged function room accented by light fixtures on the walls and ceiling. The Clubhouse's glass doors create a wide, spacious, relaxed environment, allowing the interiors to extend naturally into the space and greenery that surrounds.

To be launched soon is the Special Event Area, beside the Clubhouse, which features a built-in stage and water fountain in the center. The children's playground, as well as the Las Rosas Outdoor Dining and Tienda de Flores Village Store are soon to rise. Also to be constructed is a Model House for Ponderosa Heights. Casa Ponderosa, the Model House for the entire development, is available for viewing.

Flower Power

Hurry and reserve a place of your own at Ponderosa Leisure Farms. Experience the beauty and allure of a garden-fresh life—dewdrops in the morning; kids running around the sprinklers; the earth's fragrance after rainfall. Always fresh, always new. Every day, different.

NATURAL HIGHS

Few things come close to the exhilaration of watching things grow and bear fruit. Especially so at Ponderosa Heights in Ponderosa Leisure Farms, situated along the Santa Rosa road, five minutes from Tagaytay. Blessed with higher elevation and more level terrain, its cool, temperate climate can make anything bloom.

Life happens.

Ponderosa heights

SILANG, CAVITE

CALL 809.3853

It's your turn to experience Ponderosa Leisure Farms! New lots are available at the highest locations of the village. Call 809-3853 or 0920-9107145 for more information. You may also send e-mail to LFCustomerservice@landcopacific.com Visit www.leisurefarms.com for news and updates. Located in the cool breezy fields of Silang, Cavite, Ponderosa Leisure Farms is just 5 minutes from Tagaytay, and 45 minutes from Metro Manila. Ponderosa Leisure Farms is a quality development of Landco Pacific Corporation.

Landco Pacific Corporation is a multi-product development engaged in high-quality First Homes Subdivisions, Residential Resorts, Leisure Farms, Shopping Centers, and CBD's and Memorial Parks. Committed to provide superior value in its developments, the company has been a benchmark for outstanding lifestyle products that always dare to innovate.

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Ponderosa
LEISURE
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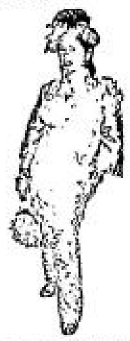
SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

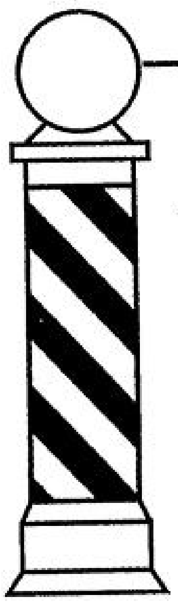
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph



TESSA reminisces to Sergio Mendes music

/F2



This barbershop makes the cut

PICTURES of leading ladies of yesteryears, including Gloria Romero, Amalia Fuentes, Susan Roces, Rosa Rosal and the late Nida Blanca, grace the walls of this barber shop-cum-beauty salon in Greenhills.

With its vintage photos of the past icons of the silver screen, Don Juan grooms male and female clients along classic lines

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE MORE A MAN LOSES his hair, the more he troops to the barbershop to have it groomed. That's certainly good news to people at Don Juan Barbershop, as regulars don't seem to mind the frequent trips.

Apart from pampering themselves with their favorite grooming services—from haircuts to hair coloring, foot spas to body massages, manicures to pedicures—customers can take a trip down memory lane at the grooming center located at the ground floor of Shopesville in Greenhills (tel. 7213142).

There are no pictures of unknown models sporting the latest hairstyles here, as the barbershop is a virtual gallery of vintage black-and-white studio shots of such Filipino matinee idols as Mario Montenegro, Nestor de Villa, Leopoldo Salcedo, Armando Goyena, Juancho Gutierrez and Pancho Magalona, among others.

Pictures of the late Fernando Poe Jr. and his actor-father have also earned their places atop the barbershop's mirrors. But the display is no pantheon of dead idols, as the grinning images of Dolphy, Eddie Garcia and deposed President Joseph Estrada are also on display.

"These images have become like a bridge between the past and the present," says Don Juan owner Buddy de Vera, president of Alpha Music Corp. "People my age are instantly transported to their youth, while their children and grandchildren are fascinated as they go through the pictures."

Such classic photos weren't easy to come by. Due to his extensive show-biz connections, the 50-something record executive was able to hook up with a certain Ador of Tropicana.

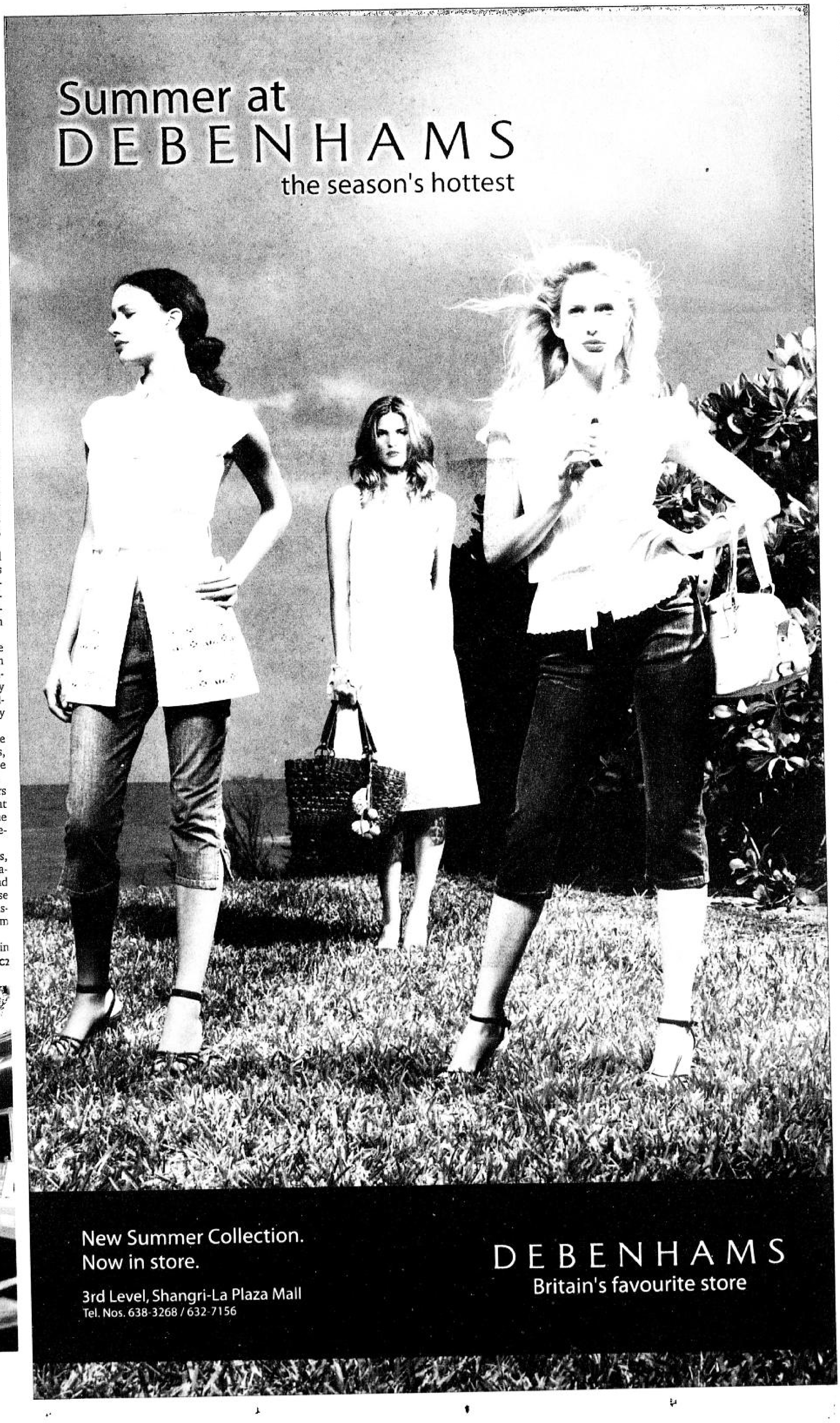
It was like a rite of passage for movie stars back then to have their glamour shots taken at the photo studio in Malabon. Despite the many years, Tropicana has been able to preserve a good number of its negatives.

De Vera, then a big fan of Amalia Fuentes, Nida Blanca and De Villa, borrowed the negatives and had some of them blown up and printed. He originally wanted to showcase pictures of departed celebrities until a customer and fellow movie fan corrected him one day.

"I learned that some of those featured in

THIS BARBERSHOP/C2

MODERN and adjustable chairs in what otherwise would have been a traditional grooming center.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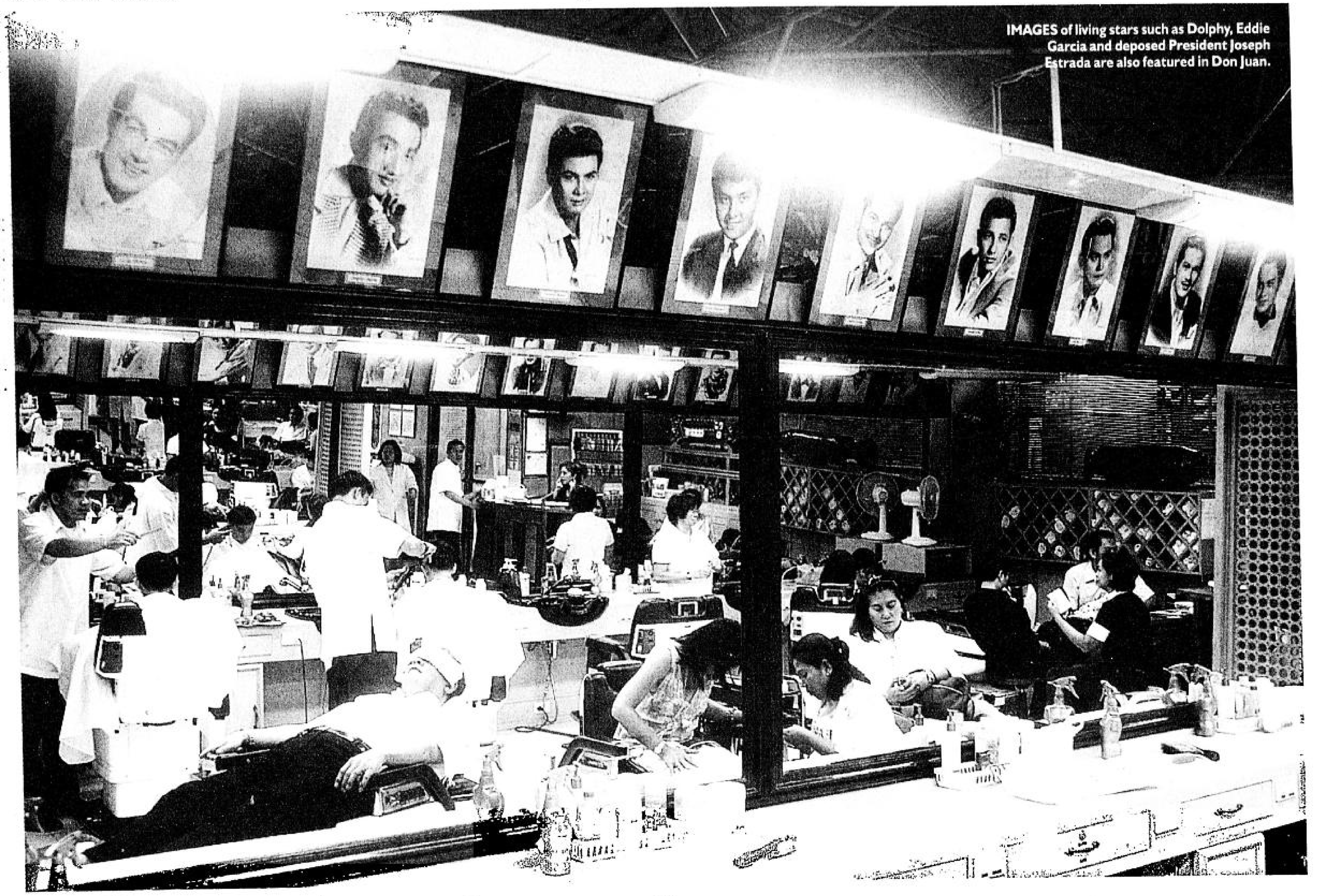
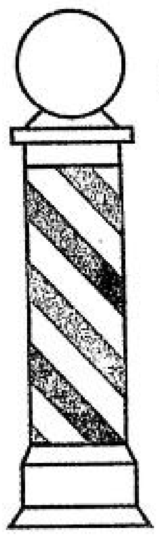

IMAGES of living stars such as Dolphy, Eddie Garcia and deposed President Joseph Estrada are also featured in Don Juan.



This barbershop makes the cut

From page C1

the display were actually still alive," he says. "There was no distinction anymore as I added more pictures of surviving actors.".

Expansion

Now on its third year in the grooming biz, Don Juan has expanded to include a beauty salon adjacent to the barbershop.

The development allowed De Vera to expand his collection and add the photographs of leading ladies of yore such as Fuentes, Gloria Romero, Lolita Rodriguez, Susan Roces, Lilia Dizon, Delia Razon, Rosa Rosal and the late Rita Gomez and Blanca.

For the longest time, wives and girlfriends who accompanied their partners to the barbershop were demanding to know when De Vera would feature the women. Not only did they get their wish, they now have a place to have their hair and nails done. The salon is run by an all-women team.

"I wasn't quite sure how the barbershop would fare when I first opened it," says de Vera. "To my surprise, the men, whether they are balding or not, still prefer the barbershop over the beauty parlor. Barbers can do certain things beauticians can't."

In an ironic twist, adds De Vera, most men, the minute their hairlines start to recede, become more conscious about grooming than women. Age usually also equates to more disposable income to spend on such newfound necessities as manicure, pedicure, body massages and even ear cleaning.

It doesn't hurt that their role models are beautiful people belonging to a bygone era when movie stars looked and acted every inch the part.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

SAN MARCOS (above); Huling Hapunan (left)

53 images in one unique Lenten exhibit

FIFTY-THREE OLD AND NEW *SANTOS*—some of them over a hundred years old—will be the stars of "Debosyon At Kasaysayan," a pre-Holy Week Exhibit traditionally held one week before Semana Santa at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Aranzazu in San Mateo, Rizal.

Conceived and initiated by parish priest Msgr. Mariano T. Balbago Jr. in 2002, the week-long exhibit has become a highlight of Holy Week celebrations in this historic Rizal town where Bonifacio and his Katipuneros sought refuge during the 1896 Revolution.

Msgr. Balbago wanted a graphic and effective way to teach the Passion of Christ to young and old churchgoers.

"What better way than to have holy images visually depict the characters and scenes of the Lord's Passion?" Balbago says. "Holy Week is a time when the hearts and minds of people turn to God. The Holy Week processions capture the people's attention so effectively, so holy images of the main characters of the Passion and various scenes of Christ's ordeal can tell the story of our redemption in a very dramatic and informative way."

From a mere 10 holy images joining the San Mateo Holy Week procession in the immediate post-war era—among them, St. Peter, St. John, Magdalene, Veronica, Mater Dolorosa, Virgen de la Soledad, Agony in the Garden, Nazareno, Holy Sepulcher and Risen Christ—the number of holy images increased to 18 when the exhibit was first held in 2002.

The project has been very well-received and has become so successful that it has spawned a mini coffee-table book and an increase in the number of holy images to the present 53 *santos*. Many of them are larger-than-life tableaux like the Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem, Last Supper and Pieta, among others.

The exhibit has attracted many visitors and devotees to San Mateo in recent years. Msgr. Balbago puts the project together yearly with the help of the Parish Pastoral Council and the San Mateo residents who are owners and caretakers of the *santos*.

The unique Lenten exhibit will run until April 9, at the Parish Hall of Nuestra Señora de Aranzazu Parochial School. Admission is free.

Demo on spring makeup

KANEBO ARTIST JUNYA Yoneda is holding a demo of the T'estimo collection at the Kanebo counter in Rustan's Tower , today, 12 noon-8 p.m.

Jenny Liang, another Kanebo artist, will provide beauty tips.

For a purchase of two T'estimo 2006 S/S Collection products, the customer gets a free 5R studio-quality photo.

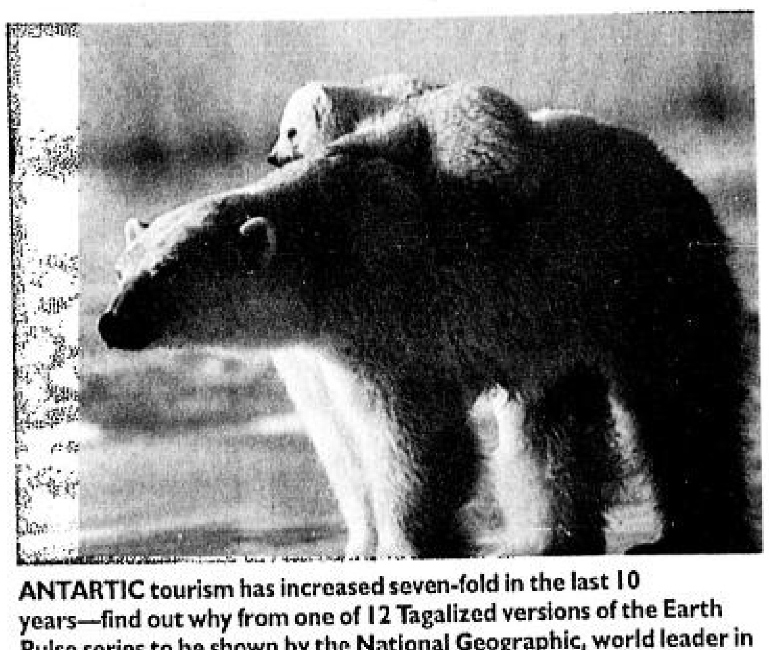
The T'estimo collection by Kanebo introduces a new line of fresh, innovative makeup products and colors for the "Pleasure Glassy" look.

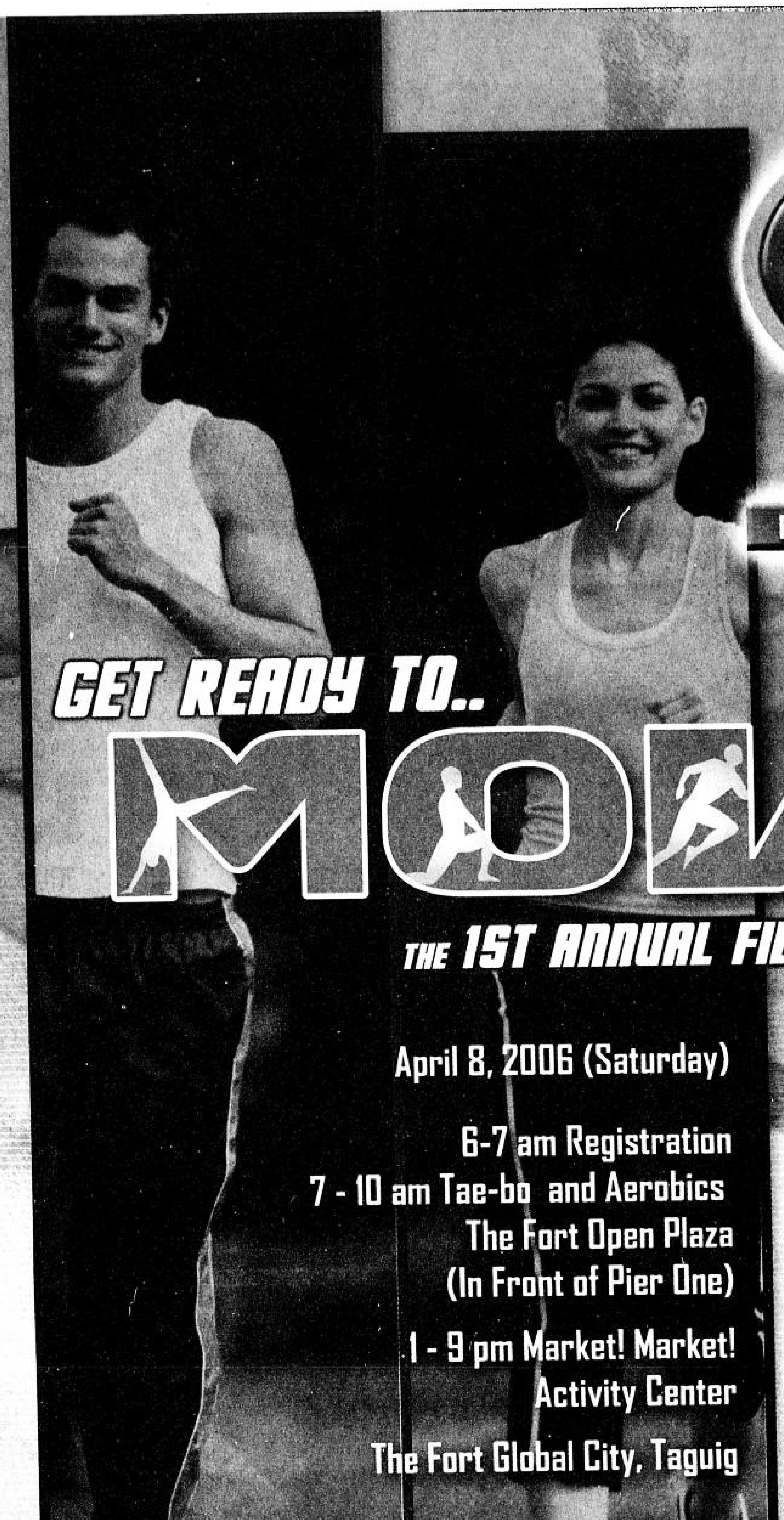
The Spring-Summer look consists of colors and textures likened to wearing a veil of delicate light.

INTERNATIONAL Japanese makeup artist, Junya Yoneda

Products making up the new range include the Serumdrape Rouge conditioning lipsticks, Gradually Eyes eyeshadows, Mix Change Powder face powder, Eyebrow Coat, Truememory Rouge long-lasting lipsticks, Glitter Fluid Rouge liquid gloss, Color Eyes powder and Color Cheeks powder blush.

Call 6334636.


ANTARTIC tourism has increased seven-fold in the last 10 years—find out why from one of 12 Tagalized versions of the Earth Pulse series to be shown by the National Geographic, world leader in geography, cartography and exploration, and Robinsons Malls at the fountain area of Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños and Robinsons Place Angeles on April 8, 22 and 29,3-5 p.m.; Robinsons Place Novaliches and Dasmariñas on April 8, 22, 29; and May 6, 3-5 p.m. Call 6835137 or 6836100 local 780 or 782.



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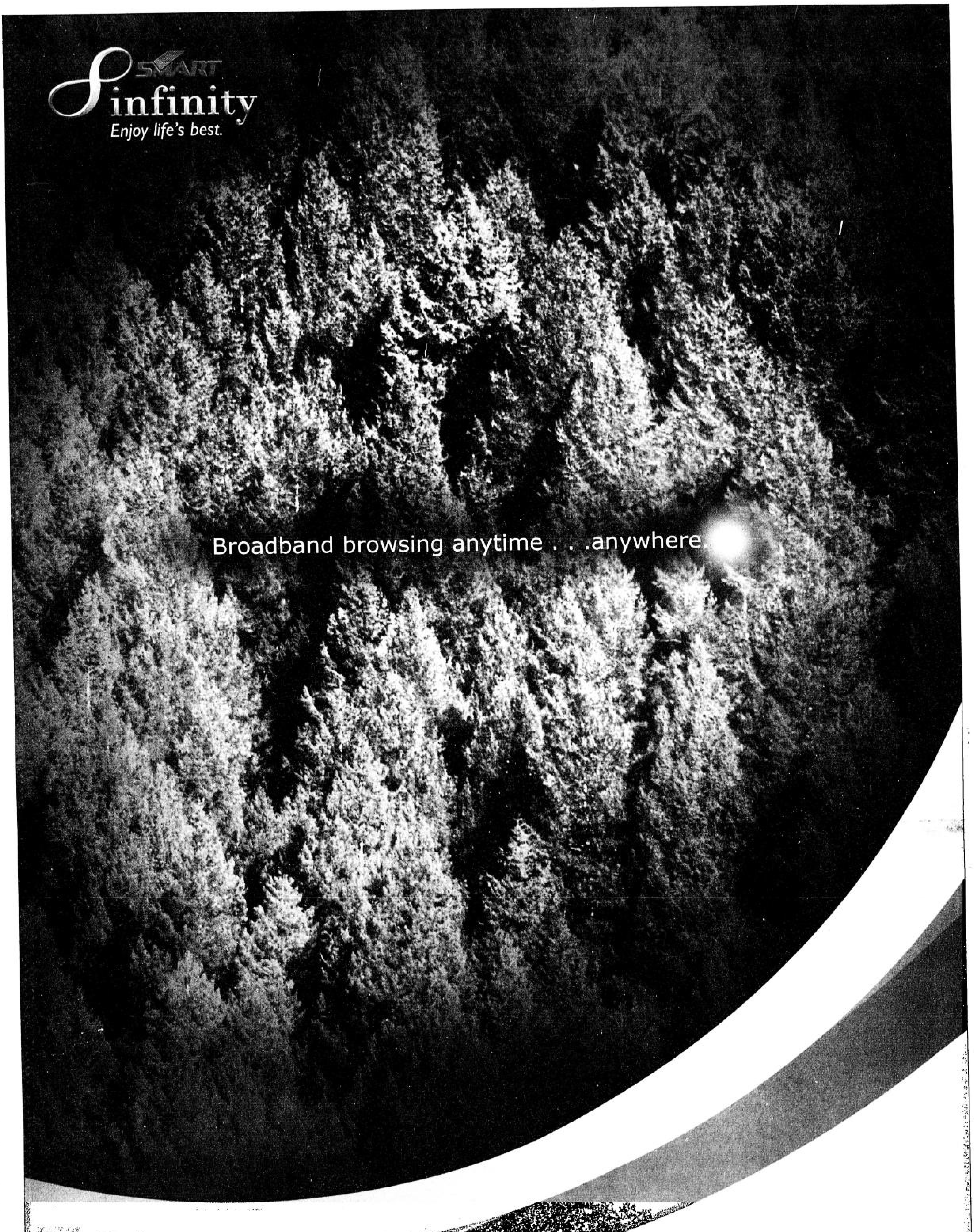
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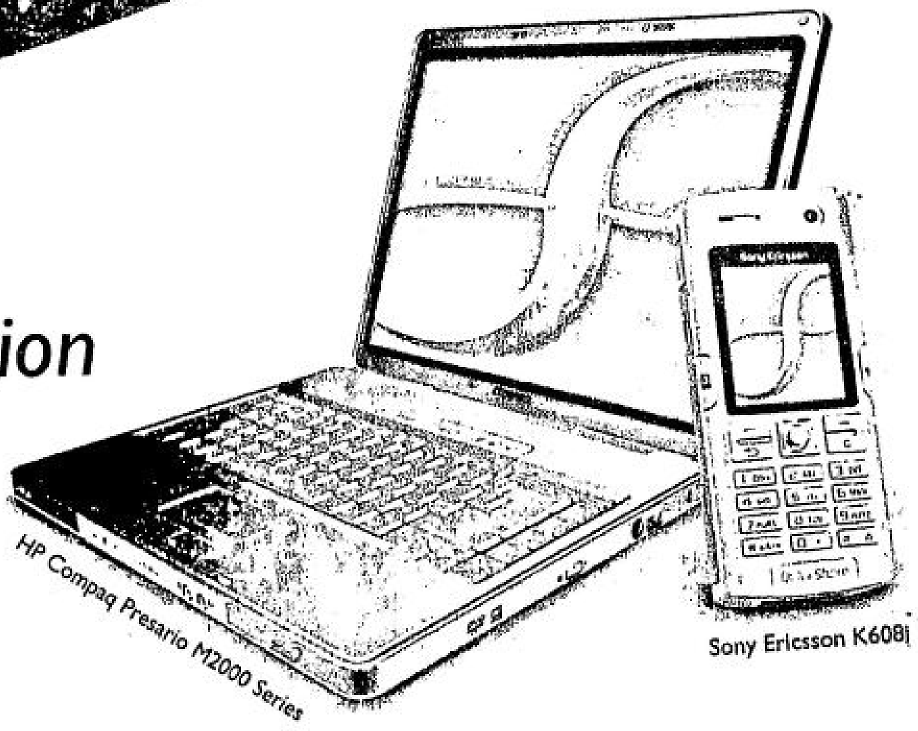
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The dream catcher

Helena is back to stay, and she has a big, beautiful project called Mangenguey

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

Part II

EVERY BIRTHDAY PARTY Helena gave was unique, and there were many of them. Once she rented all the rides of the Fiesta Carnival in Araneta Center, the cotton candy machines and the skating rink. The girls were all dressed in little bunny dresses roller skating. "But no matter how many projects I had, no matter how crazy I was, I never neglected my family," says Helena. "My *bebes*, Tanya and Katya, were included in all the parties and pictorials and fashion shows. I have pictures of 1-year-old Katya in full makeup sucking her baby bottle."

The old Roces house in Donada was unrented, empty at the time, and it was decided that Helena hold her next birthday party there. It had 10 rooms and looked spooky enough. The theme was gothic—The Wax Museum of Madam Tussaud. Aside from the Azabache crew, designers like Oscar Atendido, Tony Cajucom, Tirso Umali, Imok and a couple of others enthusiastically took on its decoration.

"Every happening was planned weeks in advance. It was like doing a theater production complete with sets, lights, sound system, costumes, only it was all just us doing everything. Everyone pitched in. We borrowed period furniture from Jo-Liza and coffins from the *funeraria*. We rented lights and microphones. We bought wreathes for the *patay*.

THE DREAM/ D2

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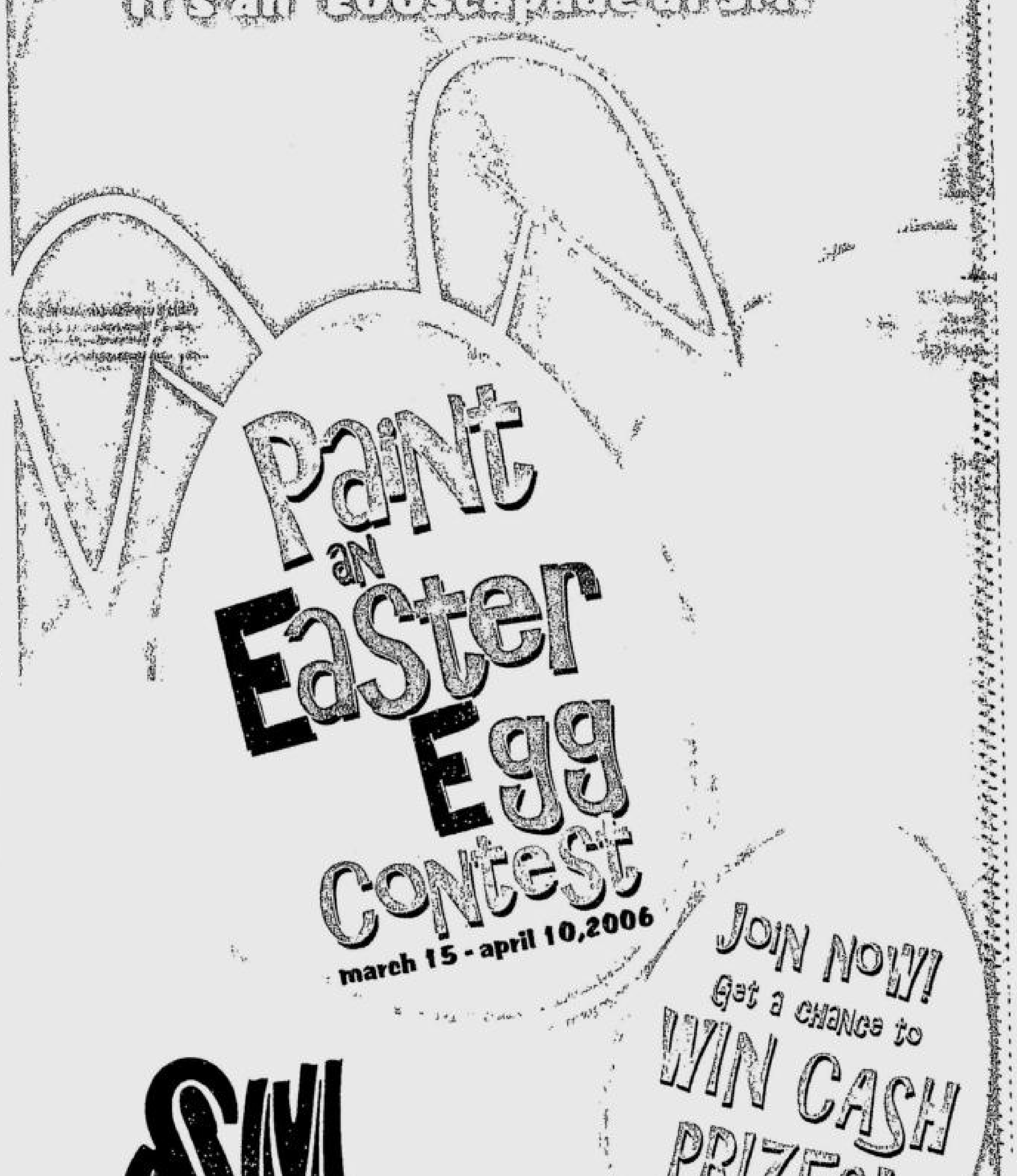
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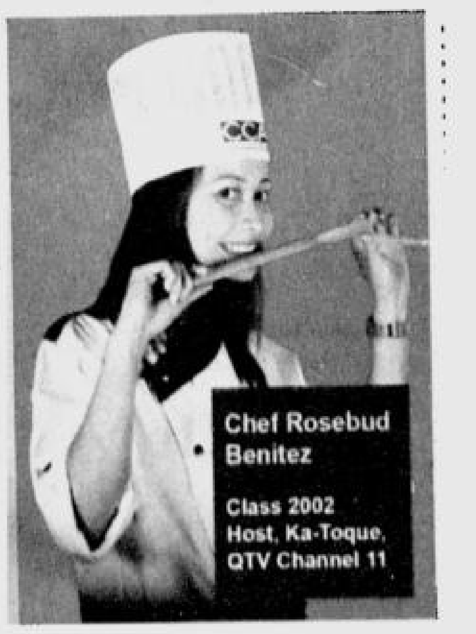
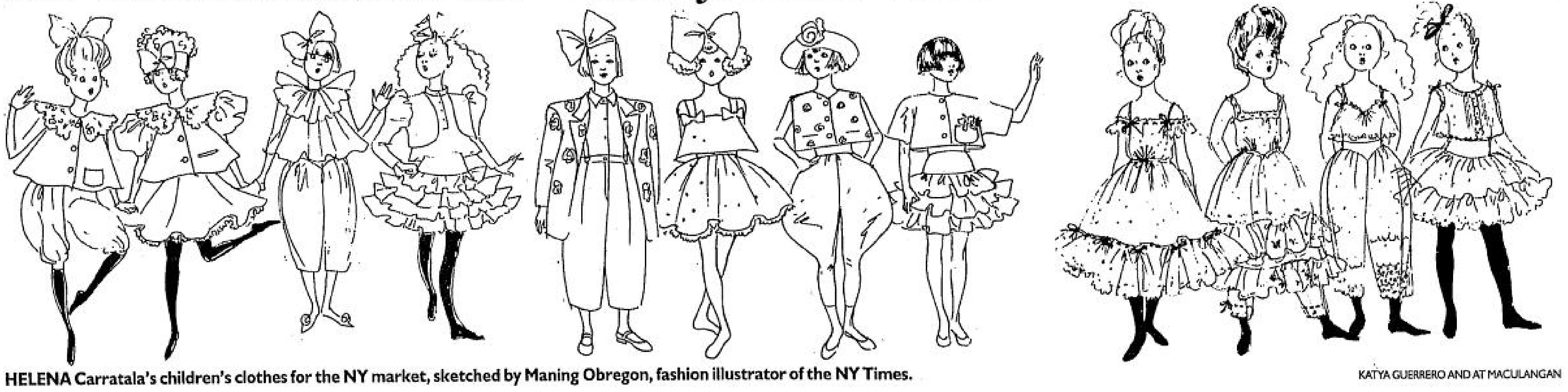




HELENA Carratala's children's clothes for the NY market, sketched by Maning Obregon, fashion illustrator of the NY Times. KATYA GUERRERO AND AT MACULANGAN

The dream catcher

From page D1

We even invited a chef, just arrived from Paris, to cook. Then we sprayed the whole house with fake cobwebs.

"Each *bakla* was assigned one room to decorate. The rooms and the people in costumes standing in them were the show itself. I have always believed that you just put together the right people and their creativities will ignite one another. The climax is always electric. You never know what will emerge—the inspiration, the unexpected, the magic—they just happen. I was completely immersed in those shows because I was more *bakla* than all those *bakla*."

The year after, Helena and family moved to a magnificent house in San Juan which was built by an American at the turn of the century. Helena had it painted all in white and furnished minimally. Her bedroom-cum-bathroom was a hexagonal space on the second floor with a balcony surrounded by trees. The old-fashioned porcelain tub was perched on a platform. Two cherubs held up the curtains. You could tell who was "in" with Helena, because they were entertained in that boudoir. The house had a circular staircase leading to a tower—ideal for the next birthday party!

Prophetic

The theme was "Gone with the Wind"—the American South romance—and the music was New Orleans jazz. The girls all wore those huge hoopshirts which, in the frenzy of the party, they would discard, leaving them in their corsets and pantaloons! The usual culprits like Budji, Ernest Santiago and Tony Cajucom would interact with Larry Leviste, Chito Vijandre, Bobby Caballero, Pando Manipon, Steve de Leon, Raymond Fuentes and Debbie Enriquez to create the ambience. Elvira Manahan and Nestor Torre were also there (to document the party on live television). Little did Helena know that it would be her last party in the country, and that its title, "Gone with the Wind," would be prophetic.

"One day I woke up, wondering, what am I doing in this marriage?" relates Helena. "Wahoo did not share my vision for the future. We had become strangers, two stones in one pond. It was a terrible awakening. I decided to leave. The family made it very hard for me. I didn't realize that leaving him also meant saying goodbye to a country that I loved. With $10,000 borrowed from a friend, I fled, not home to Barcelona, but to the Big Apple which I had once dreamed of exploring. I was 32.

ON MODEL—one of Neiman Marcus' Saks' Fifth Avenue children's line. Note Filipino-inspired terno sleeves. KATYA GUERRERO AND AT MACULANGAN

Humbling

"The years in New York were most humbling," relates Helena. "At first I was cocky—I had talent, lots of experience, a great portfolio. I applied from the top of the line, Oscar de la Renta, to the middling boutiques. The big fashion houses felt I was overqualified and would only be unhappy as an apprentice. The middle management of smaller boutiques, however, would not take in a pro like me who would threaten their jobs.

"After a year in the States, I knew that the only way to survive was to tear off the best parts of my portfolio. It was easier to sell more popular stuff. I felt I was prostituting myself, specially when they wanted to hire me for my management skills rather than for my designing. It was very painful.

"My first job was with a new designer named Regina Cravits. A friend brought me there to help Regina who was freaking out because her collection, which was showing soon, was turning out so badly. I took a look at it. This very desperate designer said, 'Do you know how to drape? Do you know what's wrong with my dresses? Can you fix it?' I said yes, yes, yes. I was able to turn around that collection. I worked with her for a while because she was grateful but soon had to leave because I had no papers."

Eventually Helena was able to penetrate the New York market by manufacturing her own designs for women, teenagers and children on a small scale. But the payments were regularly late. To stay in business she always had to sell her receivables at a discounted price. It was very difficult. But she did penetrate the market. Helena's clothes were in all the big stores like Nieman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy's, Bloomingdale's. But she could not survive "I knew I would have to produce things I didn't like again. I refused to prostitute my art any longer." So Helena put up five *tapas* bars. They were a success. She knew how to cook since she was a child perched on a stool, imitating her mother. Then 9/11 struck.

"At that time I was already married to Richard Mander, who is the love of my life. We have an only child, Theo, now 21, who asks me why I was so much fun when I was raising Tanya and Katya, but not anymore."

Richard is descended from some Mayflower stock and is a man who likes to work with his hands. He is a cabinet maker who worked for many years with Sister Parrish, the grande dame of interior design (like the Diane Vreeland of fashion). He was her construction supervisor. Sister Parrish was the designer of choice of the very rich—the Gettys, the Rockefellers, the Kennedys and the White House. Richard worked with Sister Parrish until she died. Then he opened his own company. Many of her clients followed him.

Helena met Richard in 1981 during one of her trips to New York when she still had it all—power, beauty, fame, money, a family, independence. She was not looking for anything, it was pure love. She married Richard in 1985. "You live together and realize that true love is really just learning to accept another's imperfections."

Recurring dream

Last Christmas, Helena told Richard, "I have lived with you now for many years, always with the family as priority. I want to have my turn now—will you give it to me? He said yes." And so they sold their house in Hampton, the restaurants and their assets to pursue Helena's recurring dream of going back to the Philippines and starting something meaningful, something different.

"When I was a child, my grandmother on my father's side lived with her brothers and sisters in the Philippines," relates Helena. "Her father was a military doctor during the Spanish-American war. In 1898, when the Americans won the war the family was forced out.

They departed for Spain, taking with them the *yayas*, the servants and a slave who had been given as a wedding present. Whenever she visited her grandmother she was served the *sinigang*, *arroz caldo* or *morisqueta tostada* that her grandmother had learned to cook in the islands. Helena's father sometimes talked of visiting *yaya* this or *yaya* that in some nursing home in Spain.

Once or twice a year, Helena's grandmother would call the children together and reverently open an old *baul* from the Philippines that had belonged to the help. In it were *sayas* and fine piña *baro* (blouses) with butterfly sleeves. Also magnificent photographs of the servants dressed in that finery, carrying their white wards. Her grandmother somehow felt that this beautiful life had been stolen from her.

Genetic memories

"When I was living in WackWack, my grandmother came from Spain to visit me," relates Elena. "She was already old but had one of these awakenings. She began to remember old native lullabies and singing them. The words were mostly jumbled and couldn't be understood—it was like her *sinigang* that had been diluted through the years. But it built up in me a strong and very early Philippine connection.

"When I met Wahoo it was like a magic door had opened. It was all those genetic memories. My parents were not allowing me to study in Paris, they said I was too young. But I needed to fly! Wahoo provided the wings. It was his function in my life to take me to where my destiny was. I will forever be grateful for that.

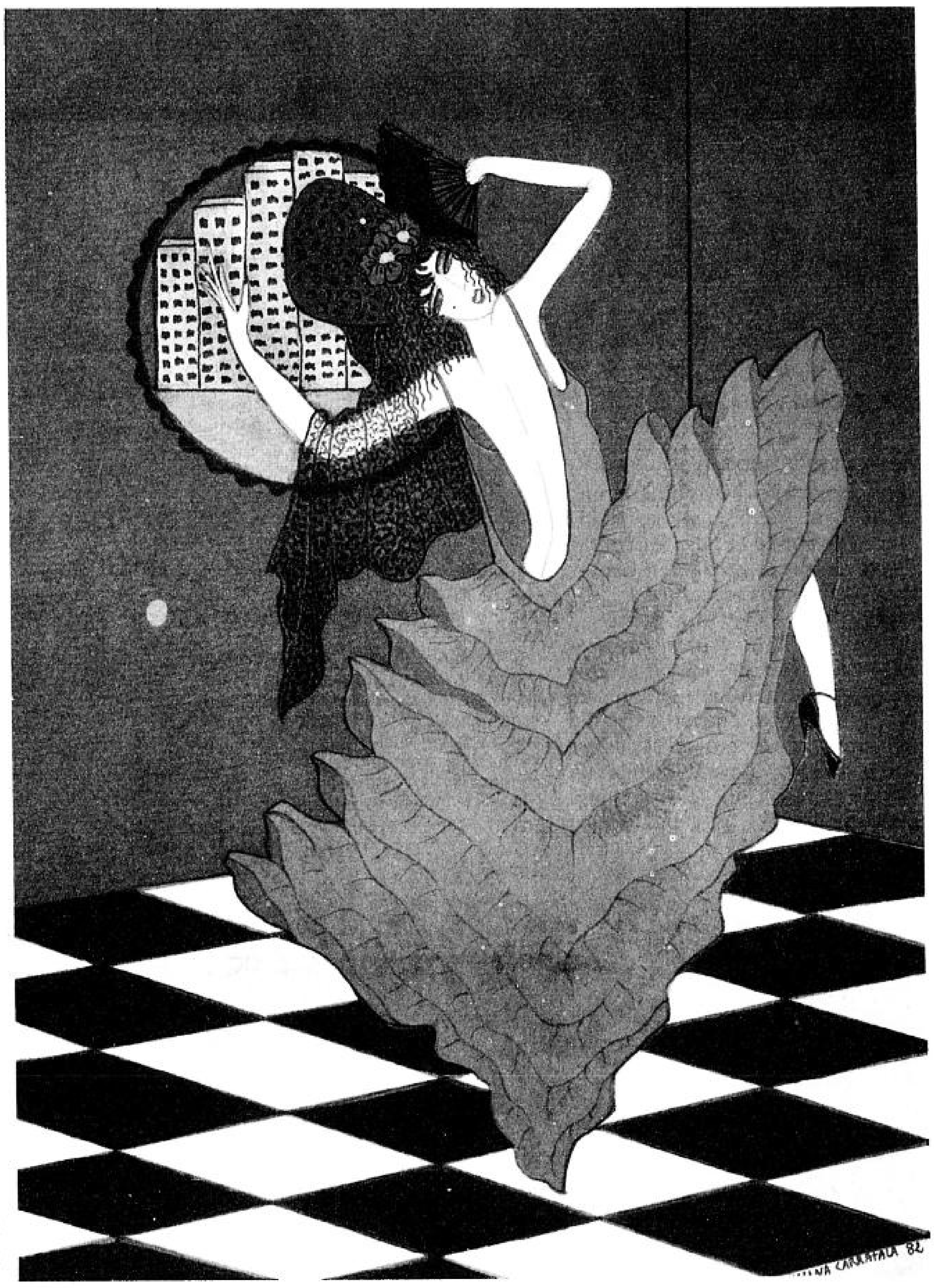
Now Helena is back. To stay. She has a big project which involves a beautiful tiny island in northern Palawan named Mangenguey.

Will it be something like Boracay? "Not by any means," says Helena. "Heaven knows we do not need another first-class tourist spot." Will it be another Azabache? "Neither. I do not live in the past. The world has changed, people have changed, I have changed." She envisions Mangenguey to be a 21st-century literary salon, a place where intellectuals, artists and leaders can meet for good conversation, music, poetry, happenings. It will be open to foreigners and locals, not limited to the rich, a bonding of mind and spirit.

Mangenguey is the name of the island but also the name of a kind of "society" that Helena wants to help evolve. Mangenguey, the society, will involve itself in ecological conservation and also in the preservation of Filipino arts and crafts, which are now dying because people cannot live on what they earn making them. Through its creative studio, Mangenguey will redesign and develop Filipino heritage products for distribution to exclusive, international markets abroad. That way alternative livelihoods will be created. The concept is still vague at the corners.

"Mangenguey will be a society dedicated to the preservation of nature and the human spirit," says Helena. And so it is not only in Palawan, but in all the Philippines, and in Helena's heart.

There are many souls with big visions that just remain up there. It requires an entirely different set of abilities to concretize a dream. One of them is knowing how to attract the right talents, how to put the correct energies together and allow them to create their own magic. Helena is a dream catcher. People have not forgotten her capacity to move mountains. In the meantime, she will have to work on how to popularize a helluva name like Mangenguey.



HELENA dancing in New York. Self-portrait soon after her arrival. KATYA GUERRERO AND AT MACULANGAN

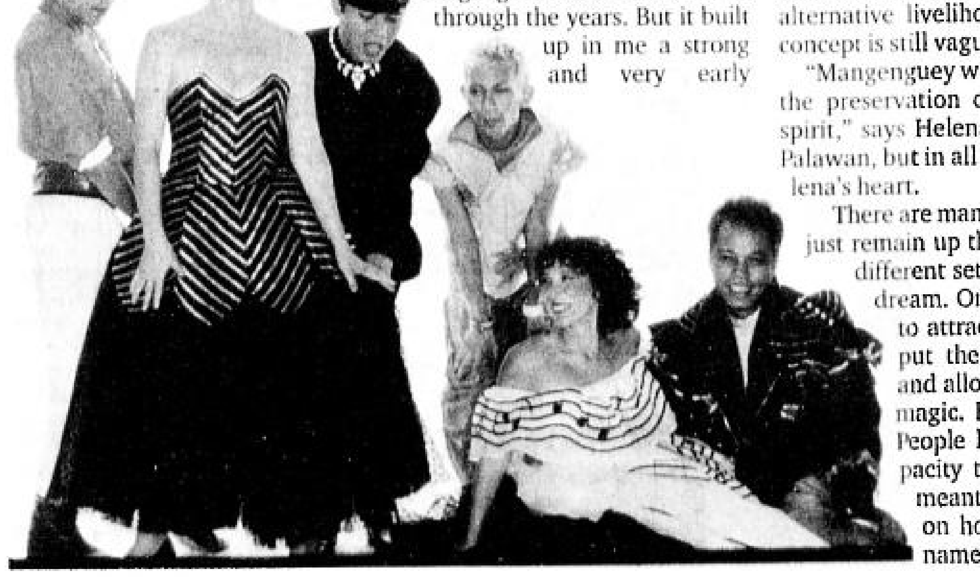


PHOTO taken in New York in 1981 by famous fashion photographer Alan Kaplan of the Azabache crew—Luigi Javier, NYC hairstylist born in the Philippines; Helena; Maning Obregon, Fil-Am NY Times fashion illustrator; Ruben Nazareth, Penny Turkell and Dennis Tan, Azabache stylists

TALK 'N TEXT TURNS 6!

Talk 'N Text celebrates its 6th year of service with 6 "AnniverSAYA" parties nationwide packed with fun-filled activities for its millions of loyal subscribers! Last weekend, Talk 'N Text kicked off the celebrations at the Ynares Center in Antipolo, Rizal.

Morning AnniverSAYA!

The Talk 'N Text "AnniverSAYA Land" opened to the public as the bright blazing sun set the backdrop for a perfect summer's day. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was performed in the presence of Talk 'N Text officials and celebrity endorsers with other special guests. This formally opened the AnniverSAYA Land with a full brass band lending its grand music. An awarding of a Plaque of Appreciation for Gov. Ynares and Mayor Gatlabayan also took place. Their joint cooperation helped make this Talk 'N Text 6th Anniversary party a highly memorable one and truly one for the books. "ANNI Land" had a game of big dice, stick fighting, tumbang lata, and giant basketball for those ready for some action. At "VER Land" the mystery heightens as dreams are read, faces painted, and wacky caricatures drawn. To top the morning's fun, at "SAYA Land" children enjoyed some "shoot the hoops" and sumo wrestling.

Afternoon AnniverSAYA!

The party was kept in full swing throughout the afternoon with a slew of activities and competitions. Members of the audience participated in Talk 'N Text's "Doble Karaoke Singing Contest", "Toyang Singing Contest", "Todo Acting Challenge" and "Stand Up Comedy Contest". In between these fun activities were opportunities for die-hard fans to meet and greet Talk 'N Text endorsers Rufa Mae Quinto and Marvin Agustin, along with Maui Taylor and Bearwin Meily.

Evening AnniverSAYA!

Commanding the stage for the early part of the evening was none other than funnyman Bearwin Meily, whose wild and wacky antics had fans in stitches and screaming for more. Talk 'N Text endorser Marvin Agustin later took center stage, he kept the crowd on their toes as he welcomed a quartet of multi-talented comedians in ostentatious costumes who go by the name of Laffline Sketch. Later on, bubbly model/celebrity Wilma Doesnt introduced Talk 'N Text endorser and comedian Vhong Navarro, who became the highlight of the evening as he performed a couple of high-energy numbers for his throngs of adoring fans.

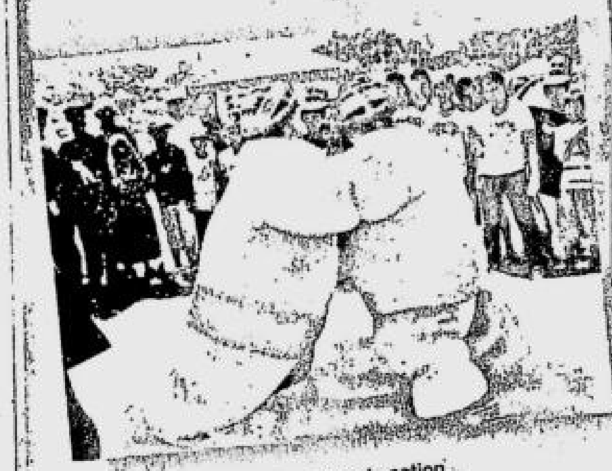
Party On!

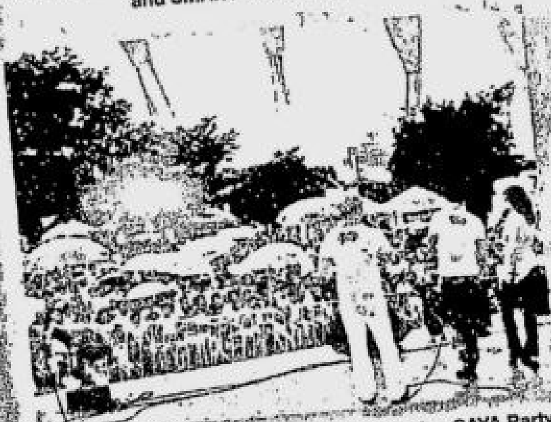
It wasn't till close to 10 in the evening when Talk 'N Text's 6th Year AnniverSAYA party at the Ynares Center wrapped up with raffle draws and an awarding ceremony for the largest barangay contigent, Barangay San Roque, Antipolo.

Join the Talk 'N Text gang again in San Fernando Plaza, La Union, on April 8 and keep the party going!

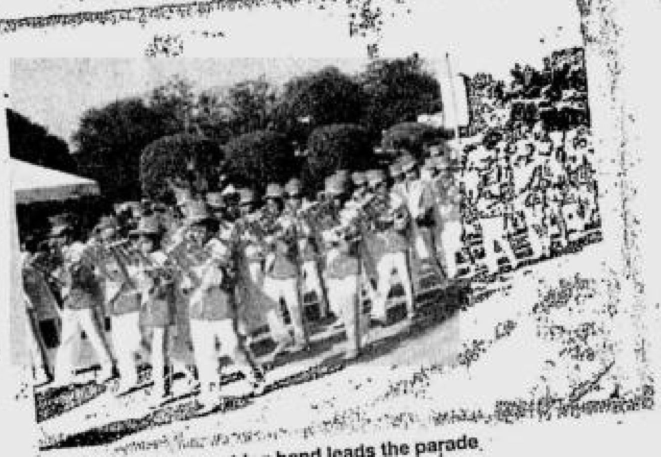
Celebrities and fans are all smiles at the Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA Year 6!

Rufa Mae leads the ribbon cutting ceremony as Marvin Agustin, Administrative Officer Atty. Henry Rosantina of Ynares Center and SMART's Billy Racho look on

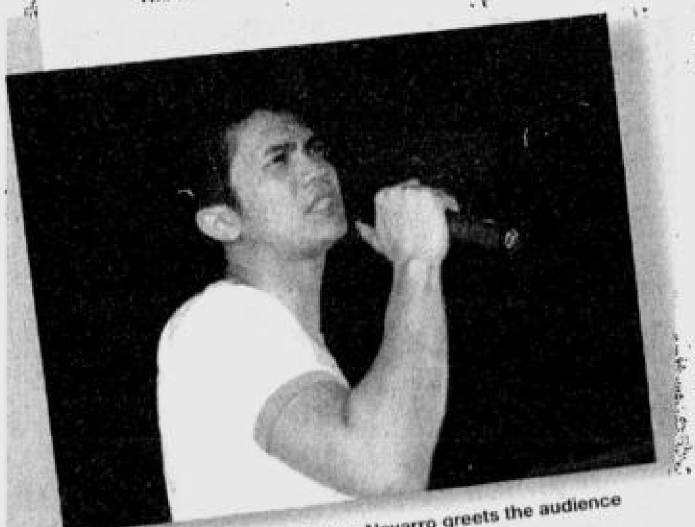

Sumo wrestlers in action


Ynares Center at full capacity for the AnniverSAYA Party

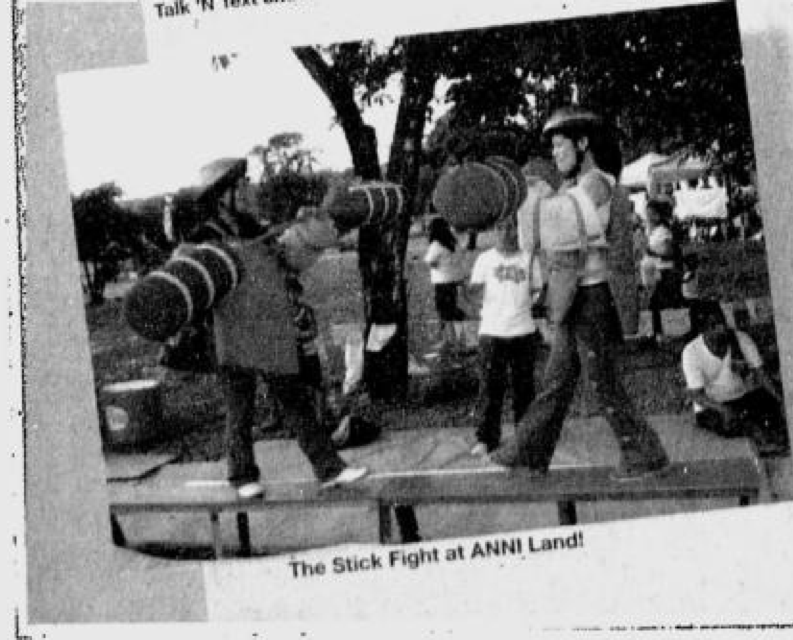
Facing the Big Dice challenge


The marching band leads the parade

The famous AnniverSAYA Grand Ferris Wheel


Talk 'N Text endorser Vhong Navarro greets the audience

Greetings from a mime on stilts!


The Stick Fight at ANNI Land!

Talk 'N Text AnniverSAYA! 6th YEAR

Apr 8	San Fernando Plaza, La Union
Apr 22	Cagayan de Oro City
May 6	Naga City
May 20	Cebu City
Jun 3	Manila

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ATENCIA-BALO

Lawyer **Polo Atencia**, son of Judge **Romulo** and **Annie Atencia**, and lawyer **Cay Balo**, daughter of engineer **Rogelio** and **Esther Balo**, married recently at the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral. Reception followed at the Grand Ballroom of Manila Hotel. **JC Buendia** designed the wedding gown.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

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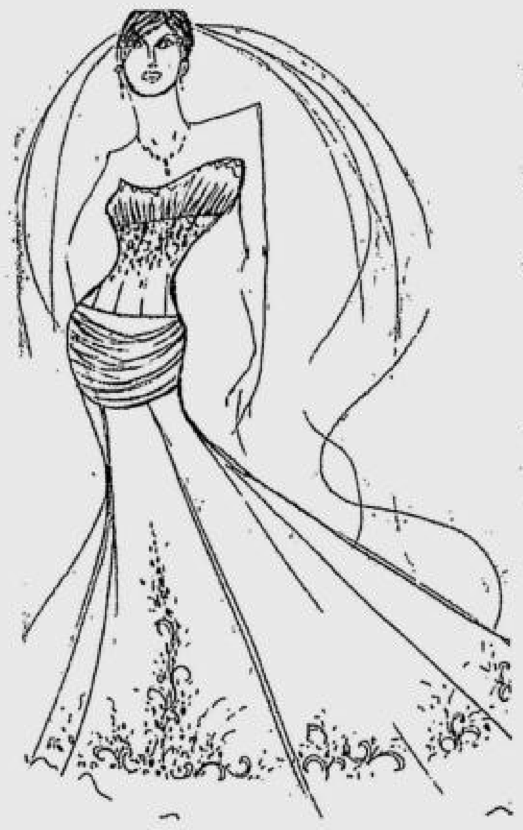
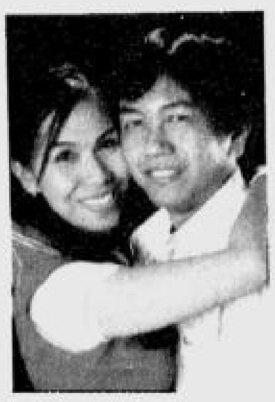
DELIVA-BAGARES

Darryl Hannah "Anna" Santiago Deliva, daughter of **Dhey** and **Mannie Deliva** and granddaughter of veteran photojournalist **Edgardo Santiago**, married recently **Joseph "Kobe" Illescas Bagares**, son of **Emily** and **Arthur Bagares**, in civil rites at the Manila City Hall. Reception was at Wah Yuen Restaurant, Manila.

BRAVO-GALVAN

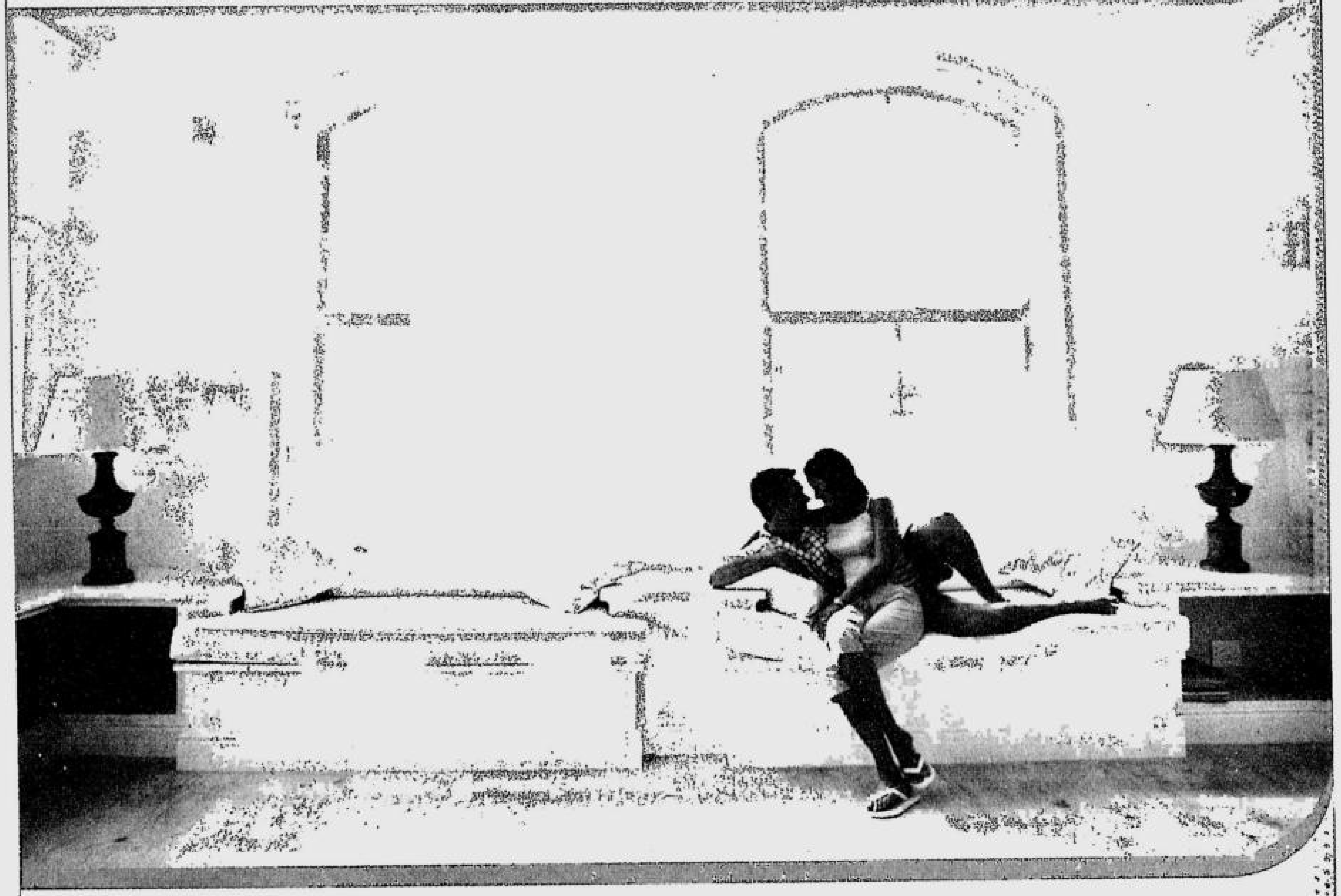
Francis John C. Bravo, son of Dr. **Franklin** and **Lily Bravo**, and **Jatheryn L. Galvan**, daughter of **Salvador** and **Irene Galvan**, exchanged wedding vows recently at St. Therese Parish, Dagupan City.





FONTIVEROS-RIANO

Ronald Fontiveros, son of **Gilbert Jr.** and **Carmen Fontiveros**, and **Sheila Maria Riano**, daughter of **Napoleon** and **Norma Riano**, will exchange vows on April 8 at the Shrine of Jesus, The Way, The Truth and The Life, Macapagal Avenue, Pasay City. Reception will follow at Coconut Palace, CCP Complex. The gowns of the bride and her entourage were designed and executed by **Paul Mateo** of The Wedding Day of Makati City and Cavite City.



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JUNIOR bridesmaid Gabby Fregil, secondary sponsors Pamela Syling, Michelle and Jeanne Fregil, groomsman Vajo Fregil, secondary sponsors Scott Syling, Carlo Ponferrada and Ben Colayco

JERE and Cielo with his parents, Margie and Joe Fregil

Business associates become *lifetime partners*

BUSINESS ASSOCIATES JERE Fregil and Cielo Regino decided to bring their partnership beyond the corporate world when they exchanged wedding vows recently.

Being both practical persons, the couple decided on a casual yet elegant affair sans fanfare. Only immediate family, close friends and business colleagues attended.

At The Manor in Baguio City, they had two weddings—an early-morning private ceremony at the St. Joseph Pacdal Church with just the couple's parents and relatives in jeans and casual wear and another at the lush garden of the hotel, with the family and guests formally dressed this time.

The Thanksgiving Mass was officiated by the bride's cousin, Father DJ de los Reyes, S.J., who was also the coordinator. Regino walked down the garden path in a simple champagne-colored Michi Calica gown escorted by her dad, Chito Regino. Her colleague at Unilever, Manny Aquino, sang "That's All."

The ceremony was highlighted by the couple's recitation of their personalized marriage vows, not the usual "I dos." Fregil's children, Vajo and Gaby, read messages welcoming their "Tita Cielo" to the family.

The three-day reunion of members of two families from different parts of the world, which involved partying every day, ended with more partying at the wedding reception.

The reception had no presidential table. The newlyweds mingled with their guests that included relatives from the Chinese side of Fregil's family and Regino's Filipino relatives. They emceed their own wedding.

An audio-visual presentation portrayed the newlyweds as "Shrek" and "Princess Fiona." Instead of the traditional toss of one bouquet, several bunches of flowers were thrown. The woman who did not catch one became the "it" girl.

The men did the limbo rock, and the bachelor who was unable to go under the bar was the "it" boy.

Both young and not-so-young danced all night.

The evening was capped by a fireworks display.

THE BRIDE and groom at the garden of The Manor in Camp John Hay, Baguio City, where the wedding took place

CIELO with secondary sponsors Pamela Syling, Jeanne and Michelle Fregil

PDI OPINION editor Jorge Aruta, PDI food columnist Micky Fenix, Boy and Yen Makabenta

THE BRIDE'S family: dad Chito, mom Neny and brothers Mike and Anton Regino

JUN RAMOS, Leddie Cruz, mom Neny and father of the bride, Chito, with his visiting siblings from the US, Millette Suarez and Imelda Lones, and cousins from Florida, David and Desiree Kim with baby Minjoo

PRINCIPAL sponsors: Errol Chan, Lillian Uy, Perry Syling, Leah Makabenta, Agnes Basilio, Ambassador Tony Basilio, Imelda Lones and architect Raul Locsin

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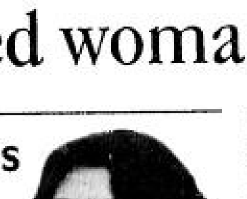
Separated woman can't get a job

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo



DEAR EMILY,

Last week, i went for a job interview. The position was for a customer service representative in Makati. I felt uneasy because I hadn't worked since I'd been a mom and a housekeeper for so long.

I failed the second interview. The interviewer was honest with me. First, she said my English wasn't fluent and, second, I didn't impress her.

What should I do? Since I lack the money to go back to school, where can I get materials on English 101 in the workforce? How should I present myself—what is the proper attire for a job interview?

I'm desperate to work since I have a lot of family issues to resolve. I had to move out of the house because my brother has a disturbing drug history. I am also separated from a husband who's a gambler.

So far, I've been a burden to my mom and sister, who is an overseas Filipino worker. I want to be financially independent from everyone.

IRENE

It took a bit of time to read your letter because you used text messaging language and abbreviations.

Don't focus your mind on an office job where English is a must for both written and oral communication. If you didn't learn much English when you were younger, you'd have difficulty learning and catching up now—considering you barely have time for yourself.

To learn a language well, you have to immerse yourself in it—read it, speak it, hear it and know it by heart. You have to know grammar, vocabulary and spelling. You can't use text language or phrases and honestly think that you can already speak English.

English is easy to learn while you're in school. You have your classmates and teachers to practice with. But now that you're much older, out of school, with household chores and kids, and this and that to do—learning the language is now a tall order. It is not doable if you want it done right.

With your determination and willingness to work, I don't think you should even bother applying in companies that use the English language all the time. There are so many jobs where you won't need proficiency in it at all.

Think deep and ask yourself what your strong points are. Are you good in selling? Then hook up with people in that trade and learn the ropes of real estate or multilevel marketing. If you're good with your hands and are creative, try dressmaking, or cooking. And when you go to apply, be pleasant and dress simply. Hey, you never know!

We all have roles to play and jobs to do in this life. They can be big and small. Not everyone has the facility to speak more than one language. But that should not be a deterrent to pursue a dream.

Don't be a "square peg in a round hole," as the saying goes. Find the job you'll be most comfortable and happy doing. Start small but think big. Remember what they say about small steps...?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

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SMART 3G is the technology responsible for new and innovative services such as video calling, video streaming and now, mobile broadband Internet at DSL speed. Essentially, you can now access broadband Internet anytime, anywhere through your SMART cellphone through the power of SMART 3G. Need to download large files while on the beach? Feel like checking out the latest business news as you go on an island-hopping experience? Your SMART cellphone can let you do those through mobile broadband Internet at DSL speed on SMART 3G.

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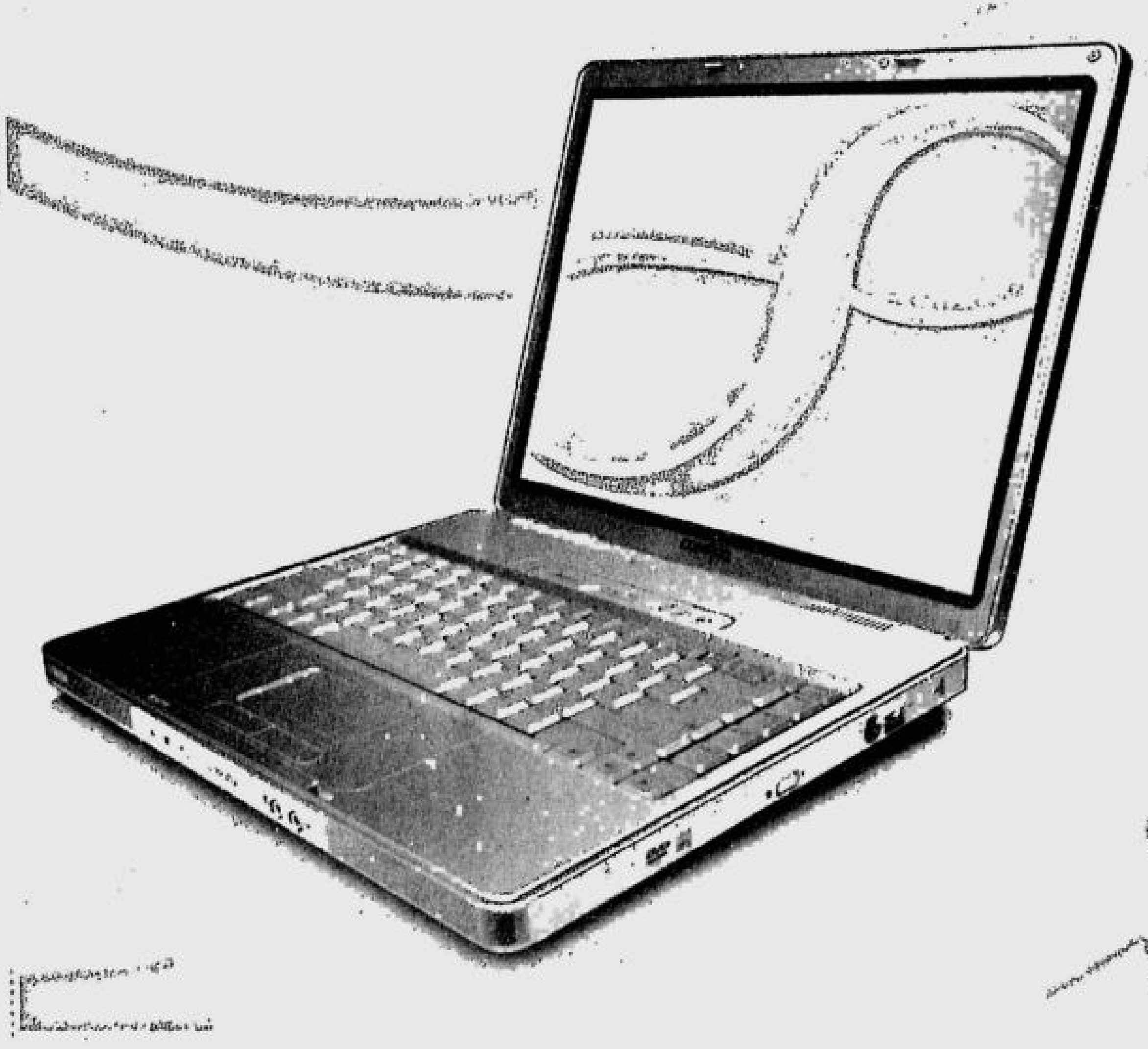
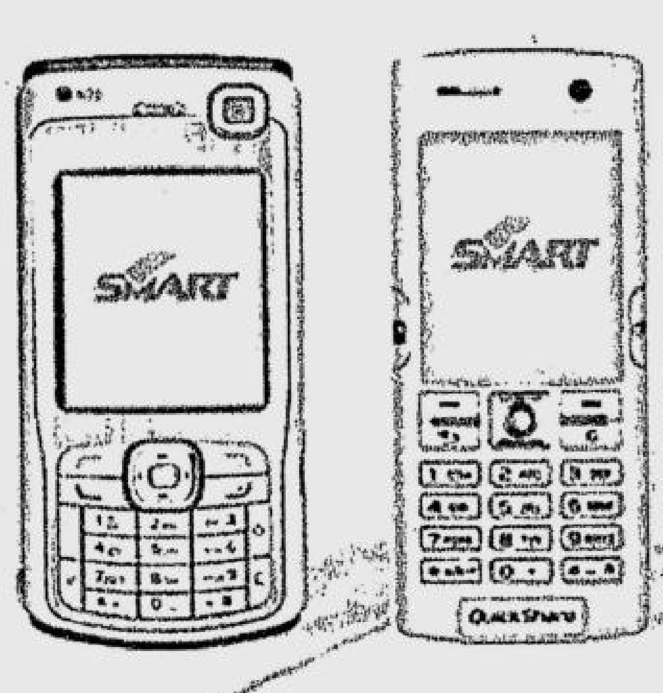
If you are already a SMART Infinity subscriber, please call your Infinity Management Office for more details. Existing SMART Infinity subscribers can also avail of this promo by applying for another Plan 8000 subscription. To apply for SMART Infinity Plan 8000, just call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111 or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.





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John Paul II's first death anniversary April 2

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS MARKING THE first death anniversary of Pope John Paul II who died April 2, 2005, in Rome. Not only Catholics are praying for him and to him, asking for help, but people from other religions, as well.

Four kings, six queens and 70 heads of state, including President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, and leaders of other religious sects attended the funeral Mass to a great Pope last year in St. Peter's Square.

Hector A. Reyes of the Rosary way 70x7x Movement, a lay Marian movement, began vigil of "silence and hiddeness" last March 24, the day of the consistory for the 15 new cardinals in Rome.

This lay Marian movement accepts spiritual bouquets for the early canonization of Pope John Paul II. Write to Hector Reyes at 145 Gen. San Miguel St., Caloocan City 1400.

Miraculous plan

How the Monasterio de Tarlac on a hill in San José, Tarlac, was built by the Servants of the Risen Christ can only be part of God's miraculous plan.

Fr. Archie Cortez, prior of the community of 21 monks, including six priests, said the land was donated by the government through the office of Tarlac Gov. José "Apeng" Yap in 2002.

The complex now consists of a hermitage house, dormitories, prior's house and Oratory or prayer room. The Servants of the Risen Christ serve in the Parish of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in Ramos, Tarlac. Fr. Cortez is the parish priest.

A sister congregation, the Handmaids of the Risen Christ, take care of an orphanage nearby and a home for the elderly. Their formation house is in Villa Teresa, Angeles City.

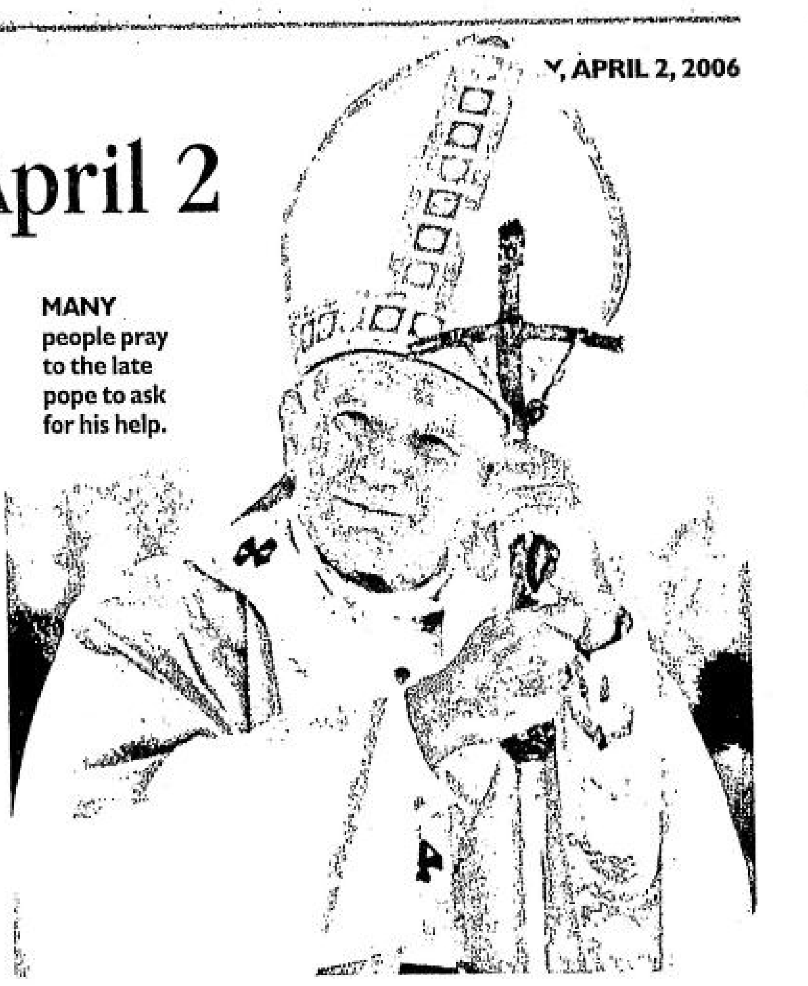
Another sister congregation, the Oblates of the Risen Christ composed of nine nuns, live in Pilar Village, Las Piñas City. The Contemplatives of the Risen Christ in Ramos, Tarlac, spend their time praying in the Adoration Chapel.

Fr. Archie said more professionals were entering the religious life. His sister Raquel became a Handmaid of the Risen Christ and took the name Sister Mary Pauline. She will be professed on May 13 in the Sacred Heart Parish in Angeles City.

Among the priests in the community is Polish Fr. Jhon Iglichi, who used to serve in the office of Pope John Paul II.

Fr. Archie entered the seminary immediately after high school. He first went to St. Camillus Seminary, then took up his Theology at the University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary. He said, "It was God who arranged my priestly studies, according to His plan. He guided me to put up the order, so more men could serve Him as priests." Two engineers are among Fr. Archie's six priests.

The Monasterio de Tarlac also serves as a retreat house. Those interested can text 0916-7044610.



MANY people pray to the late pope to ask for his help.

2 meetings

The Monastery of the Transfiguration in Malaybalay hosted recently the meeting of the Abbot President's Council of Visitors and the 7th Meeting of BEAO (Benedictine Superiors from East Asia and Oceania).

Aside from Abbot president Bruno Marin, OSB, of the Subiaco Congregation, also present were Abbot President Timothy Kelly of the Cassinese Congregation; Abbot Josep Soler of Montserrat, Spain; Abbot Stephen of Vietnam, Abbot Albert of Germany and Abbot Tarcisio Narciso of Manila, among others.

Fr. Mark Butlin, OSB, of AIM (Aid International Monastere) which sponsored the BEAO meeting, was also there.

Everyone loved the natural beauty of the monastery in Malaybalay, the solemn liturgy, the silence and the truly Benedictine hospitality of the small community headed by Prior-Administrator Fr. Savio Ma. Siccuan, OSB.

Romblon fiesta

Devotees of St. Vincent Ferrer in Romblon and those living in Metro Manila will flock to the Diocesan Shrine of St. Vincent Ferrer in Odiongan, Romblon, for the fiesta on April 5.

The image of the saint will be carried in a fluvial procession at 8 a.m., April 4, from the church to the sea. Both Catholics and Aglipayans will join. At 5 p.m., there will be a procession around the town. The Concelebrated Fiesta Mass, officiated by Bishop Talaok, will be held at 7:30 a.m., April 5.

The saint is bathed and water flowing from his body is put in bottles and used to bathe the sick. Former parish priest Fr. Agustin Gialogo has seen people get well after the bath.

Appeal

Bro. Dading Pamplona and Sis. Suzie Morales have issued this appeal: "Through the initiative of our parish priest, Rev. Fr. Altaire O. Fernandez, and with the assistance of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee, our parish has launched a campaign to raise funds for the construction of a bigger church and convent...on the lot given by Gonzala Morales...at St. Vincent Ferrer Village, Real, Calamba City."

Those wanting to help can call (049)5451916 or write to Fr. Altaire Fernandez at the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish at the above address. Thank you for your kindness.

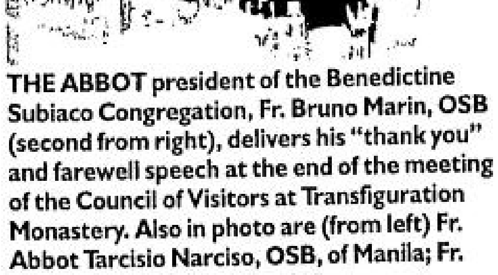
Renewal

Archbishop Ramon Arguelles will guide Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls during the Lenten recollection 8 a.m.-4 p.m., April 8, at the Manila Seedling Bank, Quezon Ave. cor. Edsa. The public is invited. Registration fee of P100 will cover lunch and snacks. Text 0918-9290603 or call 5312157. Theme is "Personal Conversion as Key to National Renewal."

Antonio Nazario passed away at the Home of the Elderly of the God Loves Community in Agoo, La Union. For details, call Brother Cesar 0917-7959565.

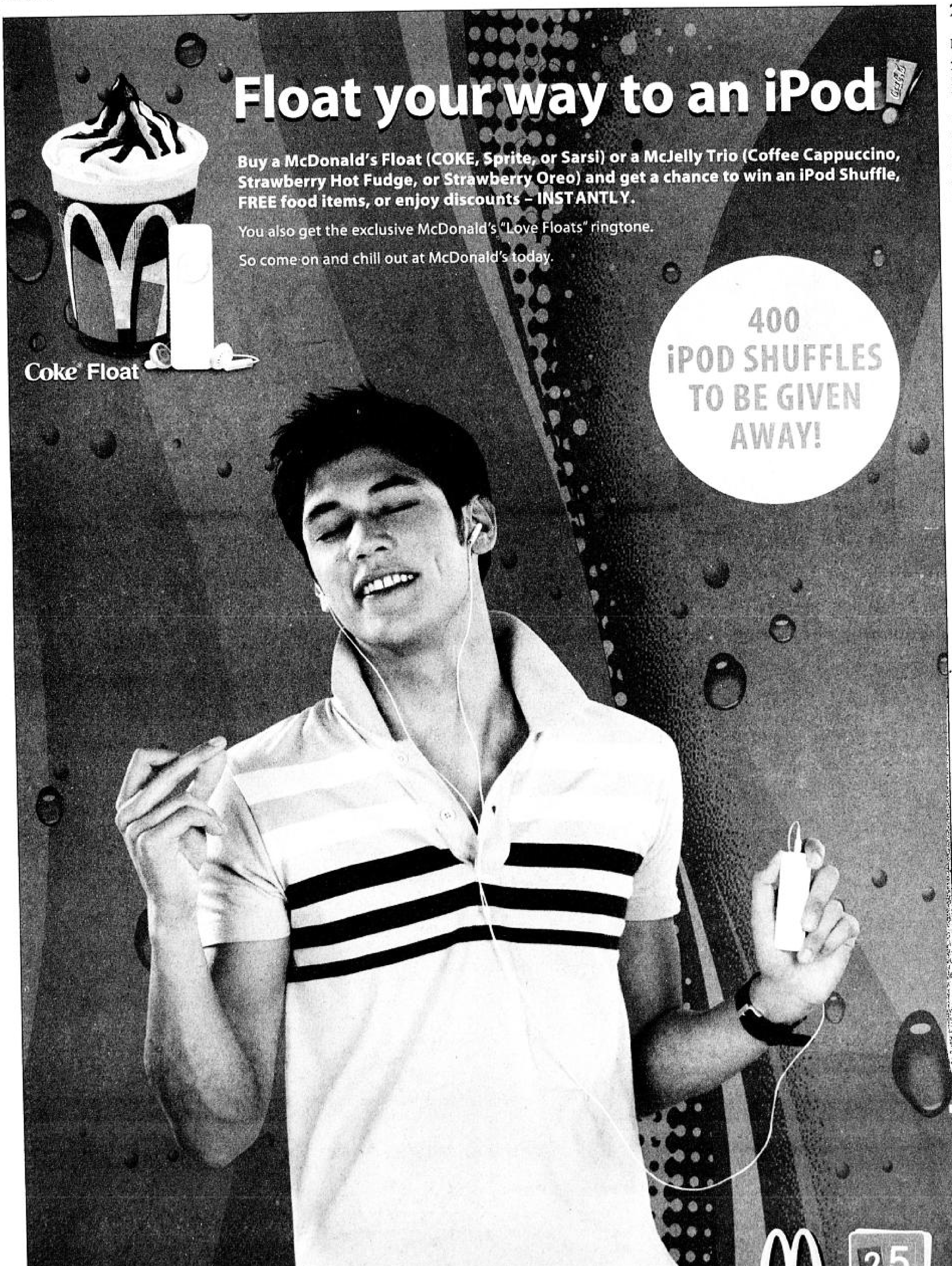
Recollection

Pacem priests Fr. Tony Catalbas and Fr. Israel Augosto will lead a recollection of employees of Harbour Centre and R2 Builders at 8:30 a.m., April 8, at the Harbour Centre, Vitas, Tondo.



THE ABBOT president of the Benedictine Subiaco Congregation, Fr. Bruno Marin, OSB (second from right), delivers his "thank you" and farewell speech at the end of the meeting of the Council of Visitors at Transfiguration Monastery. Also in photo are (from left) Fr. Abbot Tarcisio Narciso, OSB, of Manila; Fr. Abbot Josep Soler, OSB, of Montserrat, Spain; and Fr. Prior Savio Siccuan, OSB, of Malaybalay.

SERVANTS of the Risen Christ in Monasterio de Tarlac in San José, Tarlac


Float your way to an iPod!
Buy a McDonald's Float (COKE, Sprite, or Sarsi) or a McJelly Trio (Coffee Cappuccino, Strawberry Hot Fudge, or Strawberry Oreo) and get a chance to win an iPod Shuffle, FREE food items, or enjoy discounts – INSTANTLY.
You also get the exclusive McDonald's "Love Floats" ringtone.
So come on and chill out at McDonald's today.
Coke® Float
400 iPOD SHUFFLES TO BE GIVEN AWAY!
love ko 'to
25 na tayo!
Coke, Coca-Cola, Sprite and Sarsi are registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company.
Promo runs from March 15 to April 15, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0388, Series of 2006.

HOW TO JOIN:

1. Every purchase of a Float (COKE, Sprite, or Sarsi) or McJelly Trio (Strawberry Hot Fudge, Strawberry Oreo, or Coffee Cappuccino) at any McDonald's outlet nationwide from March 15 to April 15, 2006 entitles you to a peel-off card.
2. The peel-off card gives you a chance to:
   a. Win 1 of 400 iPod Shuffles
   b. Win FREE food items like: Corn McDip, Twister Fries, or Big Mac
   c. Enjoy discounts like:
      - ₱10 off on a Big Mac
      - ₱10 off on a Filet-O-Fish
      - FREE Go Big Time Coke
      - ₱10 off on a Quarter Pounder with Cheese
      - ₱10 off on a McChicken
3. The peel-off card also gives you the exclusive "Love Floats" ringtone*. To download the ringtone, you must text-in the unique code to 29769 using the following format:
   - Monotone (for non-MMS phones): text MCDO <space> (printed code) <space> M to 29769
   - Polytone (for MMS phones): text MCDO <space> (printed code) <space> P to 29769
   - Truetone (for WAV capable phones): text MCDO <space> (printed code) <space> T to 29769

   Ex. MCDO ABC123 P (send to 29769)

   You will receive the following Reply Message: Ur LOVE FLOATS tone wil be sent 2 u shortly. Tell ur frends abt d McDonald's desserts! ₱2.50/txt (DTI NCR Permit 0388. Series of 2006.)

   * *The ringtone cost (₱15) is waived for the promotion. However, the subscribers will be billed the download fee of ₱2.50 by their service provider.*
4. If you're the lucky winner of an iPod Shuffle, there are two ways to claim your prize:
   a. If you're a resident of Metro Manila or nearby provinces (Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, Rizal), you must claim your iPod Shuffle at the McDonald's Head Office at: 17/F Citibank Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.
   b. If you're a provincial winner, you can claim your iPod Shuffle by showing the restaurant manager your winning card. The iPod Shuffle will be available at the McDonald's outlet where you got the peel-off card two weeks after you notify the manager.
5. Winners of the iPod Shuffle must present the winning peel-off card, proof of purchase, valid identification with photo (i.e. driver's license, passport, NBI clearance, SSS, TIN, voter's ID, etc.) in claiming the prize at the McDonald's Head Office or at the McDonald's outlet where he/she won.
6. You can instantly claim your FREE food or discount at any McDonald's outlet upon presentation of winning card.
7. Redemption period is until 60 days from end of promo period. All unclaimed prizes after the 60-day period will be forfeited in favor of Golden Arches Development Corporation with prior approval from DTI.
8. Employees of Sponsors and Advertising Agency for this promo (Golden Arches Development Corporation, CCBPI, TCCEC, StarCom, DDB Philippines, Deweys & Bertz Marketing and Communications Company) including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join this contest.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LifeStyle

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

MASURKA chair
(P68,000)

Streamlined but multi-dimensional

Dimensioné's compact pieces are ideal space-saving solutions

Text by
Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by
Chito Vecina

THE GROWING popularity of townhouses and condo units among today's young Filipinos only partly explains the success of Dimensioné. Indeed, the furniture chain's streamlined and compact pieces offer ideal space-saving solutions to stressed-out urbanites.

Despite adopting such a no-frills approach, however, Dimensioné is able to incorporate trendy, functional and even elegant elements to its merchandise. Therein lies its true and enduring appeal among homeowners on the lookout for reasonably priced yet modern pieces.

"Our goal has been clear from the start," says Cisco Lumbad, brand manager of Dimensioné. "We cater to the modern-day living requirements of young couples and single yuppies in search of economical yet stylish ways to live."

Another proof of Dimensioné's growing appeal over the years (it started in 1976 with a single outlet owned and operated by Ben Chan) is its increased visibility. Apart from its eight stand-alone stores housed in some of the country's major shopping malls, the brand's presence extends to Our Home outlets at SM Megamall, SM City Fairview and SM City Bacoor.

"Although we've been offering selected items that go well with big- to medium-sized homes," says Lumbad, "it would be correct to say that Dimensioné's intention has always been to focus on maximizing limited spaces."

But its appeal goes beyond the four corners of the home, as Dimensioné has a wide selection of quality "contract" pieces that are proving to be a hit among big corporate clients—from cafés to fast food chains, banks to corporate offices—such as Starbucks, McDonald's, Citibank, Pancake House and Yellow Cab Pizza.

Its contract pieces, which primarily include industrial-strength tables and chairs, are imbued with the same characteristics as items meant for

STREAMLINED/F4

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
in cooperation with the Philippine Tourism Authority
presents:
HOLIDAY ADVENTURE FAIR
Tourism & Travel Expo
April 3 to 9,2006 - Level 2 Carousel Court

Brought to you by:
NESTLE PHILIPPINES* OCEAN ADVENTURE
BALIKBAYAN GEAR*MORELIA TOURS & TRAVEL
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AVILON ZOOLOGICAL PARK* ZOOBIC SAFARI
FREE ADMISSION 10a.m.-9p.m.

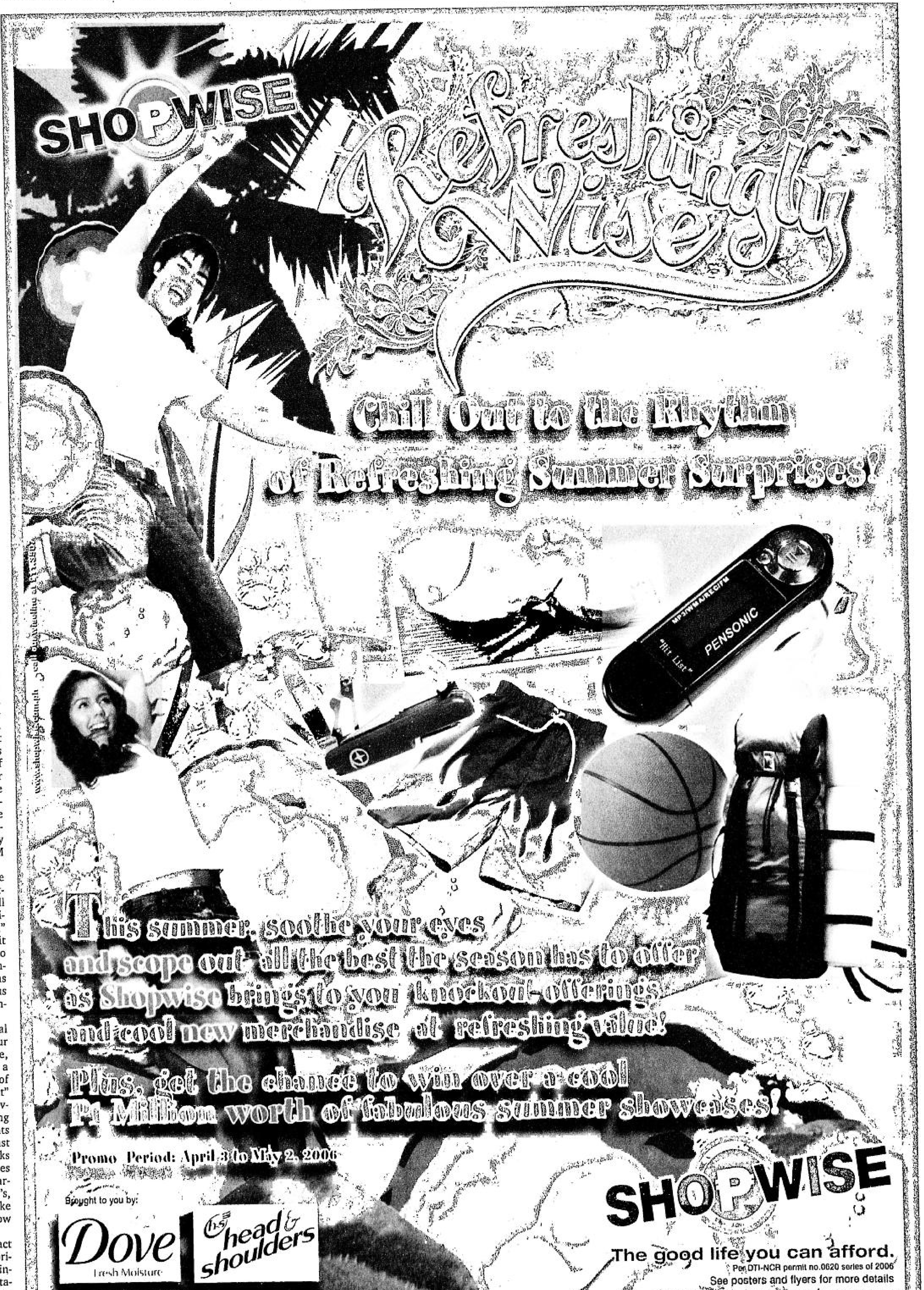
SUMMER ENRICHMENT
PROGRAM

Our Summer Enrichment Program
- gives you a headstart for the coming school year by preparing you for the lessons that you will take in your next level
- teaches you techniques in tackling schoolwork and exams;
- helps you establish or improve study habits;
- makes you more confident and prepared for school;
- lets you say goodbye to mediocre class performance and hello to better grades!

Get AHEAD this Summer!

ROBINSONS GALLERIA: Park Avenue (Lower Ground) Ortigas Center 631-1100, 0915-9809393
GREENHILLS: Providence Building, 55 Annapolis St. 722-7258, 722-8152, 0927-7576030
QUEZON CITY: FBR Building, 317 Katipunan Avenue 426-0034 to 36, 0917-8911187
DAGUPAN: De Venecia Road, Lucao District (075) 515-8588, 0920-9507229

AHEAD
TUTORIAL & REVIEW



SHOPWISE
Refreshingly Wise
Chill Out to the Rhythm of Refreshing Summer Surprises!
PENSONIC
"Hit List"
This summer, soothe your eyes and scope out all the best the season has to offer as Shopwise brings to you knockout offerings and cool new merchandise at refreshing value!
Plus, get the chance to win over a cool P1 Million worth of fabulous summer showcases!
Promo Period: April 3 to May 2, 2006
Brought to you by:
Dove
Fresh Moisture
head & shoulders
SHOPWISE
The good life you can afford.
Per DTI-NCR permit no.0620 series of 2006
See posters and flyers for more details
NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

DYNAMIC couple Ed and Margarita Delgado

BACCHUS owner Clifford and Melissa Lichaytoo

FRIENDLY neighbors Chu-chu Madrigal and Mandy Eduque

CLOSE friends Gina de Venecia and Merl Pineda

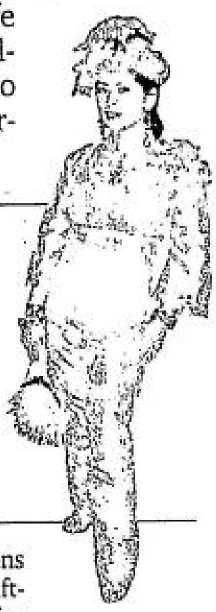
BOLTON fans Abby and Jun de Leon

SHANG family Jarlath Lynch and Joy Wassmer

Reminiscing with Sergio Mendes music

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes



LIFE DOES UNFOLD IN mysterious ways. One can be so passionate about building dreams over a decade, but in an instant, everything can be taken away. When challenges happen, they are difficult to comprehend, so my attitude is to think that when life closes a door, there are always other doors to open, to explore and to continue pursuing even bigger dreams.

Although one may get frustrated and enraged about the circumstances that life deals out, the key to move forward is to be encouraged about the future. A helpful balm to the wounded soul is music. Music lifts burdened spirits and truly enlightens the mind. Recently, it has been uplifting to watch the many concerts by international artists of decades past. My husband, **Dennis**, and I have had many trips to the Araneta Coliseum to sit quietly and reminisce while listening to so many memorable songs.

Upon the invitation of philanthropist **Baby Arenas**, Dennis and I watched the recent concert of **Sergio Mendes**. It was indeed a happy road down memory lane with songs like "Day after Day" and "When I Think I'm Going Out of My Head." This Brazilian artist, now based in New York, has been around since I can remember with his original band—Sergio Mendes and Brazil '66. Although half the crowd that evening was closer in age to my mother, I did enjoy the evening dancing to the upbeat percussion rhythm.

> Although the crowd that evening was closer in age to my mother, I enjoyed dancing to the upbeat percussion rhythm

SO CLOSE! Michael Bolton

Dining and wining

The world is indeed so small. Just a few weeks before, I was dining with the proprietor of Chateau Lynch Bages, **Jean Michel Cazes**, at a spectacular, five-course, gourmet dinner at Old Manila Restaurant in Manila Peninsula. Hosted by Bacchus owners **Alex** and **Clifford Lichaytoo**, 75 wine-lovers feasted on sumptuous food and the premium wines of Chateau Lynch Bages from the Bordeaux region in France.

Somewhere between the 2003 L'Ostal Cazes, the premium wine of Jean Michel from the Languedoc region of France, and the three or four vintage reds of Chateau Lynch Bages, Jean Michel told me that he happens to be a really close friend of Sergio Mendes. Together with their wives, they have even spent several summers in the winery in Bordeaux.

JOANN Salgado, Justice Consuelo Santiago, Baby Arenas, Tessa, Rachel Arenas, Willie Revillame and Liz Revillame

They are such good friends. Jean Michel joked that Sergio is a lousy singer but a brilliant composer and music arranger. They both have a passion for wine and so annually, they share their vast collection of vintage wines.

Still on my final days of being carnivorous—I just can't seem to start being a vegetarian again!—I enjoyed the Angus beef tenderloin with the 1995 vintage red, now available in Bacchus Wine Shop (contact 8135022) in Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

For me, the evening was so informative as we went through the different vintages and tried to comment on the structured, fruity taste as distinct from the earthy, bold flavor. Not a wine expert, I was just happy to be getting pleasantly acquainted with my favorite that evening, Chateau Lynch Bages 1988, a very classic vintage showing great structure and finesse—at least that's what the brochure says.

Unfortunately, I could not enjoy the dessert—Valrhona chocolate fondant with white chocolate sorbet, chocolate macaroons and chocolate cherry tarts served with vintage port and cognac—since I am sacrificing by giving up chocolates for Lent. I was also good and stuck to only one or two glasses of wine, since I am still nursing my 10-month-old **Athena**.

After all that reminiscing with Sergio Mendes, we watched another concert—**Michael Bolton**, a balladeer of more recent vintage. Makati Shang PR **Joy Wassmer** invited us to the concert held just last week. Makati Shangri-La was the official residence of Michael B and Volvo escorted him to and from the concert venue.

In one of life's little coincidences, we recognized the Volvo chauffeur, **Rosel de Guzman**, as he was also the one who drove us to the airport when we participated in the Asia Volvo Masters Golf Tournament late last year. Rosel is in charge of Volvo Quality Control but likes to work hands on by driving VIPs like Michael Bolton around.

The Shangri-La group has been aggressively putting their mark in the real estate market with the launch of the Grand Shang Tower. This prime residential condominium has amazing five-star amenities such as fully equipped gym, spa, tropical-style pool, function rooms and a colorful children's play area. The best part about living there is that it's a stone's throw away from Greenbelt shopping. The Makati skyline is quite magnificent from the top floors of the Grand Shang.

Good vibes and charity

Our world is filled with clutter and unwanted energies. It is an excellent idea to annually clean the air in your home. Ringing chimes, burning incense and sending positive intentions to all areas of the house can definitely change its energy.

A more effective way to promote auspicious vibes is to do charity work. Visiting beauty queen/actress **Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas** decided to raise funds for the Leyte landslide victims with a charity bazaar and variety show. She spearheaded the bazaar at the Market! Market! and invited several personalities to sell old clothes. Ruffa raised over P1 million for the Red Cross projects in Leyte—quite an achievement!

INQUIRER Super!'s **Tim Yap** and I set up what was undoubtedly the most colorful booth, festooned with feathered outfits, bejeweled accessories and furry tops. I was shocked that people were actually interested in my unusual clothes, mostly creations from local designers. Several suitcases were all sold out. Although I was thinking of keeping some of the outfits for future theme parties, it was a more pleasant feeling to be able to help uplift the lives of people who have been so affected by this tragedy. Plus the sale de-cluttered my closets!

Every day is truly a new beginning! If we all learn to share whatever blessings we have with one another, just think of all the small miracles that we would be helping to create. And with many small miracles, surely the big ones cannot be far off.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

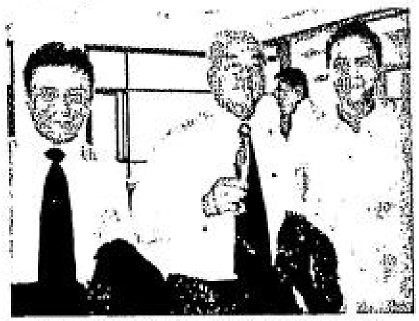
STUNNING beauties Snow Tago, Donita Rose, Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas, Gretchen Barretto and Assunta de Rossi-Ledesma

LIZ Revillame, Willie Revillame, Christine Bersola-Babao and Julius Babao FILE PHOTO

SERGIO Mendes with Nene Araneta

LOVELY ladies Kathy Zita, Nena Tantoco and Mila Lacson

BACCHUS head Alex Lichaytoo, Sea Princess and Chateau Lynch Bages owner Jean Michel Cazes


RUSTAN'S head Rico Tantoco, Ed Lacson and Shang's Tom Zita

CIBO sisters Gaita Fores and Bledes Fores and cousin Ria Ojeda

CEBU Pacific couple Jay and Lance Gokongwei and brother-in-law Perry

BABY Arenas, Dr. James Dee and Do Ejercito

SUPPORTIVE parents Annabelle Rama and Eddie Gutierrez

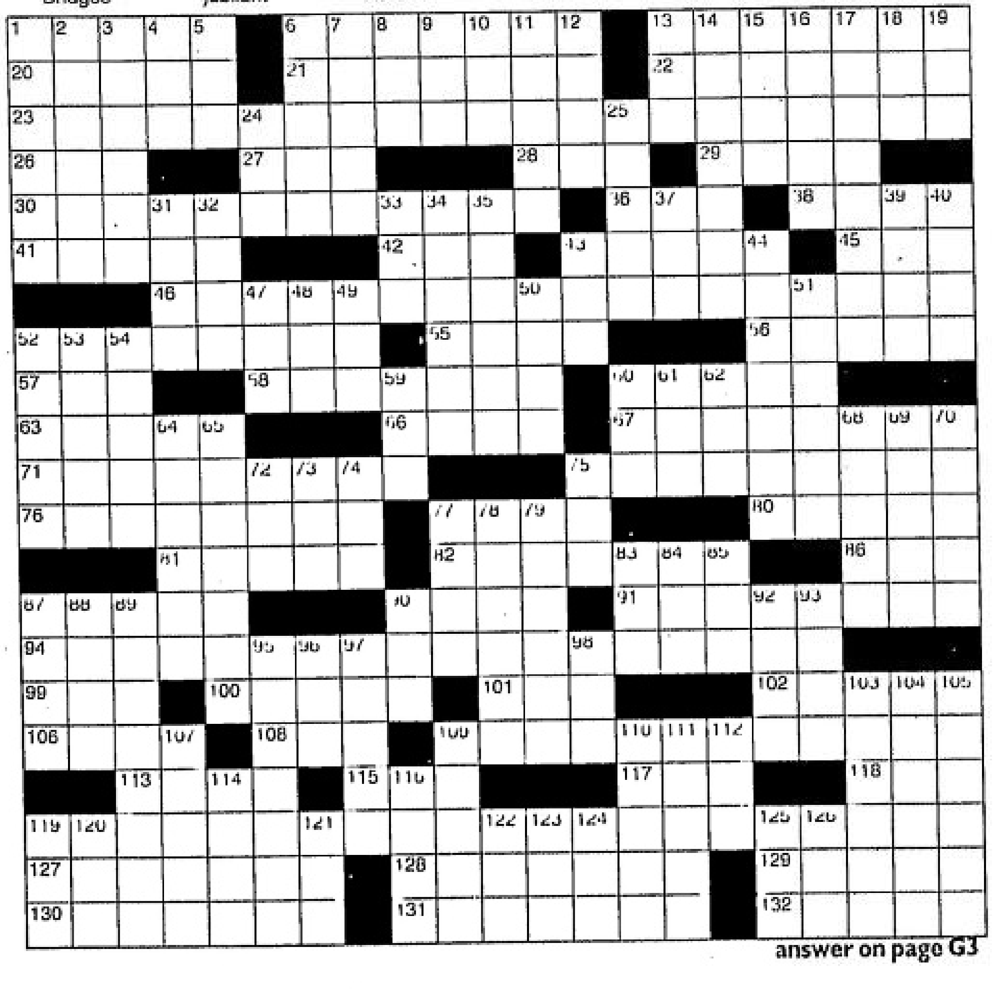
CHARITABLE beauty Ruffa Gutierrez selling her clothes.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo BREAKFAST

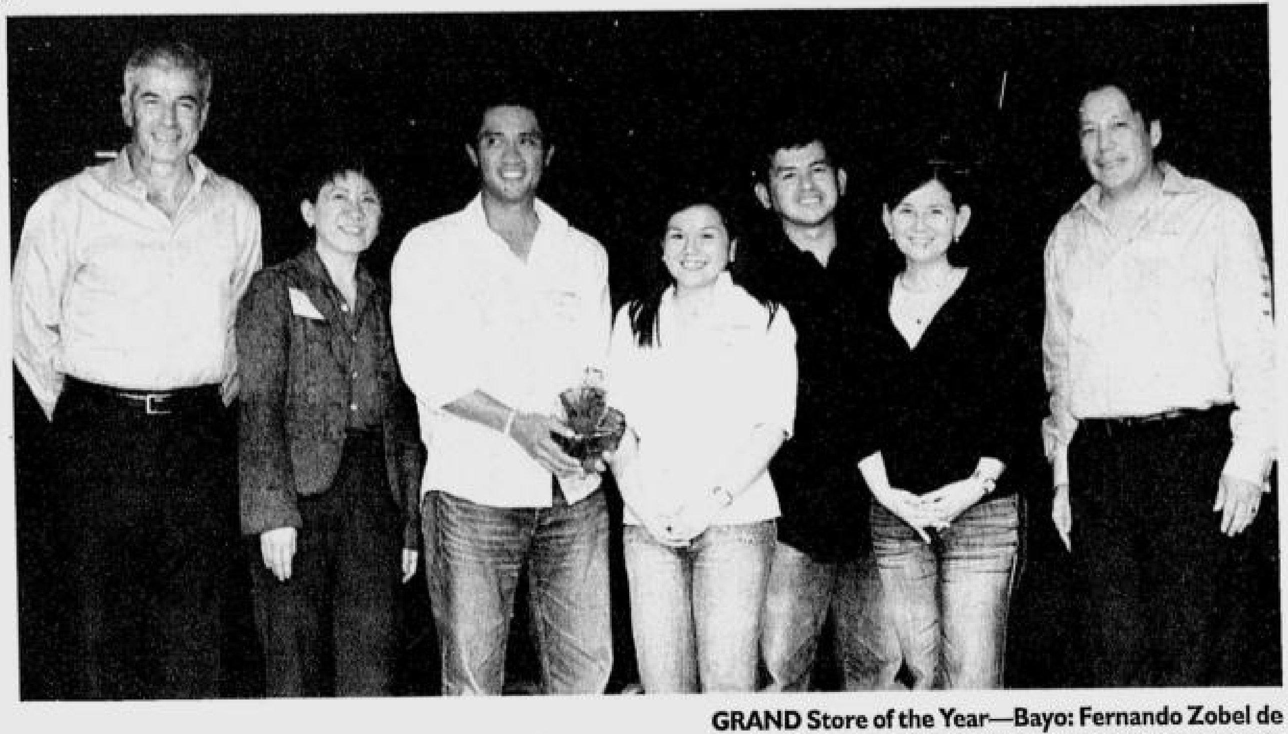
ACROSS
1 Some swords have two
6 Stacked atop
13 Ill feeling
20 TV host Robin
21 Sea — (coral-reef creature)
22 Liqueur in a fizz
23 Start of a riddle
26 Perceive
27 "Xanadu" rock gp.
28 — -pah-pah (tuba sound)
29 Novelist Rice
30 Riddle, part 2
36 Western hemisphere gp.
38 Novelist Sholem
41 Floral perfume
42 Atop, in poems
43 Pro gridder
45 — -mo replay
46 Riddle, part 3
52 Alternative to "Time"
55 Tickled
56 Actor Bridges
57 Notre Dame coach Parseghian
58 Aridity
60 "— I can help it!"
63 Painter Kahlo
66 Avails oneself of
67 Innovative
71 Riddle, part 4
75 Riddle, part 5
76 German shepherd, to a Brit
77 Lucy's love
80 Bara of silents
81 Glycerin start
82 "The Larry Sanders Show" Emmy winner
86 100-yr. period
87 Didn't exist
90 Wizard, old-style
91 Indianans
94 Riddle, part 6
99 With 11-Down, get plastered
100 Antianxiety drug
101 Singing syllable
102 Make jubilant
106 Damage
108 Permit to
109 End of the riddle
113 Actress Neuwirth
115 Classical beginning
117 Suffix with Sudan
118 China's Chou En- —
119 Riddle's answer
127 Section of Queens
128 Deep regret
129 The Jetsons' dog
130 Did brickwork
131 Scholarly
132 Nuclear particle

DOWN
1 Otis of elevators
2 Overcome
3 Most happy
4 Friendly start?
5 Moo — pork
6 Sao —, Brazil
7 Tagging along
8 French article
9 Comedian Philips
10 "Fatso" star DeLuise
11 See 99-Across
12 "Nautilus" captain
13 Alternative to AOL or Yahoo!
14 Noms de plume
15 Bank offer
16 MetLife rival
17 "Sounds about right"
18 Knight's title
19 Wind dir.
24 For every
25 "See ya later"
31 Montreal Canadiens' nickname
32 Forehead
33 "— don't!" (emphatic denial)
34 Grasslike plants
35 Ultimatum closer
37 In the style of
39 Potter's need
40 "— he do that?"
43 Tacit agreement
44 Ignite again
47 Danson of "Dad"
48 That lady
49 Blue yonder
50 Give lip
51 Fairylike
52 Pact signed by Clinton in 1993
53 Actor Flynn
54 Street urchins
59 Bolt holder
60 Classic Japanese drama
61 "It must be him, — shall die ..."
62 Twitch
64 Feinstein or Wiest
65 Against levies
68 Sibling's daughter
69 Sum finder
70 Tilts
72 Morse code click
73 Tar's paddle
74 Card game cry
75 Jester
77 Select a card
78 Pizza slice, often
79 Novelist Elizabeth George —
83 Unit of resistance
84 King, in Caen
85 Christmas drink
87 — a vengeance
88 Large land mass
89 Frozen fruit treats
90 Man of unknown identity
92 Mets' milieu
93 "— cost you"
95 Actress Harper
96 Suffix with serpent
97 "Jack Sprat could — fat ..."
98 Scotland's longest river
103 Apportions
104 Milan's — alla Scala
105 Light bulb inventor
107 "Ditto"
109 One carrying
110 Animal
111 Lauder of fragrances
112 Average grade
114 Swiss capital
116 To be, in Brittany
119 Piper's cap
120 That, in Chile
121 Smidge
122 Outback ratite
123 Pistol, slangily
124 Numerical prefix
125 Male sheep
126 "The Waste Land" monogram



answer on page G3

AYALA Center Cebu's Store of the Year—Nike Park: Paolo Tuason of Nike Park; Jim Ayala, Ayala Land president; Miguel Celdran of Nike Park; Miriam O. Katigbak, Ayala Land EVP and Ayala Malls Group head; and Rene D. Almendras; Cebu Holdings, Inc. president)



GRAND Store of the Year—Bayo: Fernando Zobel de Ayala; Miriam O. Katigbak, Ayala Land EVP and Ayala Malls Group head; Ferdie and Lyn Agustin of Bayo, Sonny and Corcor Bitong; and Jim Ayala, Ayala Land president

Year's best retailers honored by mall

AYALA MALLS RECENTLY presented its 8th Annual Merchant Rewards. The reward program recognizes establishments that adhere to the highest standards of excellence and innovation. Awardees have distinguished themselves in retail in terms of visual merchandising, store operations and marketing.

The special tribute to Ayala Malls merchants included a Merchant Forum in the morning at Onstage, Greenbelt 1, and the Awards Night at Greenbelt 3 Park.

Speakers during the forum were retail and creative experts Paul Husband, managing director of Husband Retail Consulting Ltd.; Ferdie Agustin, president of Lyncor, Inc.; and Jos Ortega, chair and CEO of BrandLab.

Awardees included trailblazers in the retail industry, top-performing stores and brands in Ayala Malls.

Ayala Land, led by Fernando Zobel de Ayala, hosted the event together with Jim Ayala, president of Ayala Land, Inc.; Miriam Katigbak, executive vice president and Ayala Malls Group head; Rene Almendras, president of Cebu Holdings, Inc.; Rowena Tomeldan, vice president of Ayala Malls; and the management team of Ayala Malls.

Judges were Catherine Zobel de Ayala, Joji Lloren, Tina Periquet, Anton Mendoza, Angel Aquino, Myrza Sison, Digna Santos, Pauline Suaco-Juan, Melvin Mangada and Vicky Ortega. Emcee was David Celdran and guest performer was Jasmine Trias.

The real stars, of course, were the winners themselves. Top winner at the 8th Ayala Malls Merchant Rewards was Bayo, Grand Store of the Year. It also received the Overall Marketing Excellence award.

Overall Visual Merchandising Excellence Winners were Louis Vuitton (foreign) and Carbon (local). Stores of the Year were Tyler for Glorietta, Kids of Bayo for Alabang Town Center and Nike Park for Ayala Center Cebu.

Store Operations Excellence awards went to Glorietta's Lacoste Shoes, Rockport, Lacoste Luggage, EO Active Eyewear, Schu, Geox, Tyler, People Are People and Toby's; Greenbelt's Gaudi; Alabang Town Center's People Are People, Bench Body, Charles and Keith, Nike Stadium and Kids of Bayo; and Ayala Center Cebu's Lacoste Apparel, Bayo, Nike Park, Levi's and Marks & Spencer.

The Most Promising Retailers were All Flip Flops and Kids of Bayo in Glorietta; People's Palace in Greenbelt; The Good Earth and The 50th Avenue in Alabang Town Center; and Play 2 Learn and Big Mao in Ayala Center Cebu.

GLORIETTA'S Store of the Year—Tyler: Emmanuel Pineda of Tyler

ALABANG Town Center's Store of the Year—Kids of Bayo: Corcor Bitong and Lyn Agustin of Kids of Bayo

Greens are good for you.

(And we're not just talking veggies!)

We're talking about green tea and how it's packed with stuff that's good for you!

Green tea is considered a "wonder substance" that reduces the chances of cancer, lowers blood cholesterol and blood sugar levels, and helps control blood pressure.

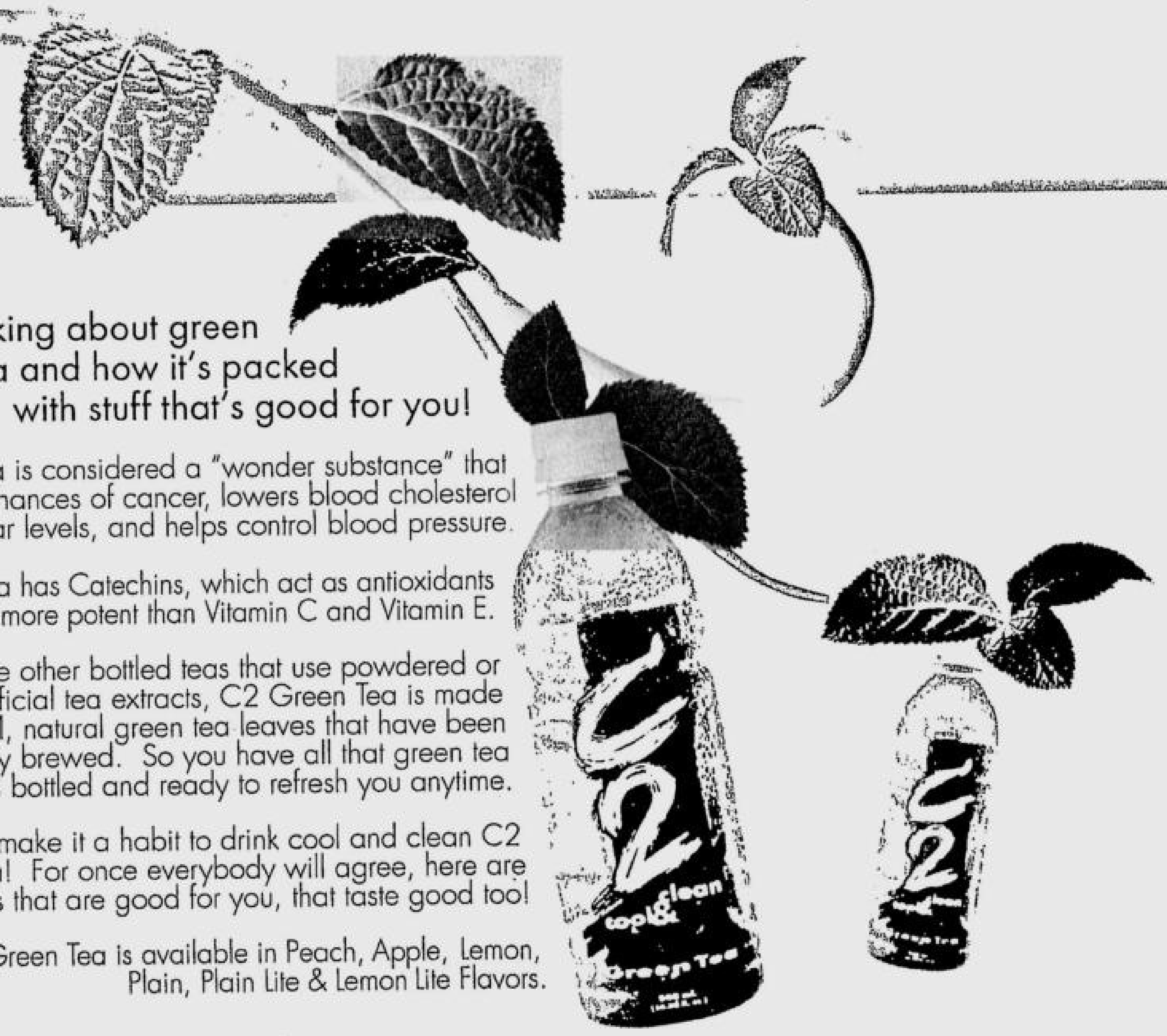
C2 Green Tea has Catechins, which act as antioxidants that are more potent than Vitamin C and Vitamin E.

Unlike other bottled teas that use powdered or artificial tea extracts, C2 Green Tea is made from real, natural green tea leaves that have been delicately brewed. So you have all that green tea goodness bottled and ready to refresh you anytime.

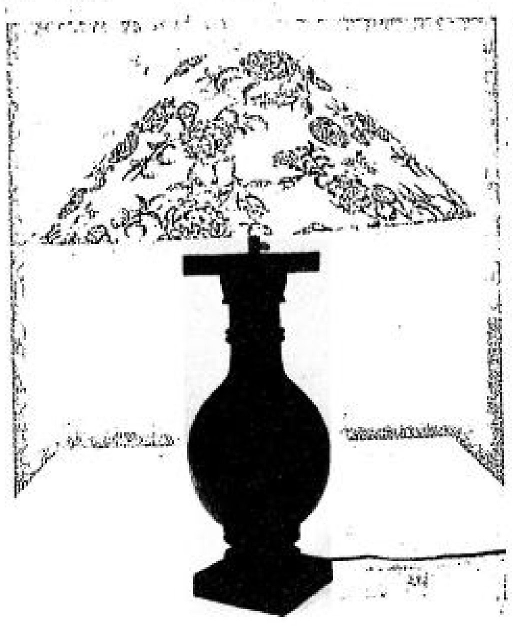
So make it a habit to drink cool and clean C2 Green Tea! For once everybody will agree, here are greens that are good for you, that taste good too!

C2 Green Tea is available in Peach, Apple, Lemon, Plain, Plain Lite & Lemon Lite Flavors.

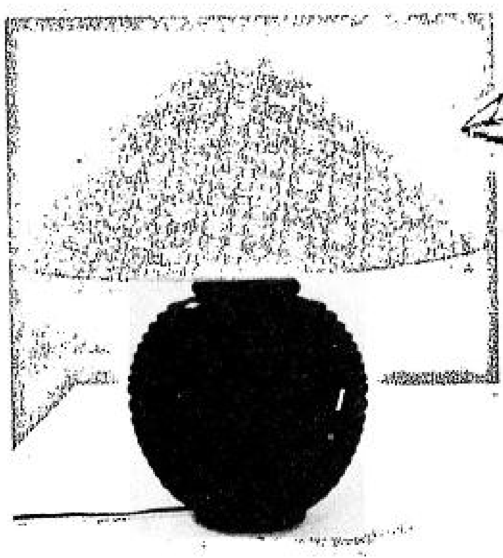
Nothing relaxes and recharges like C2 Green Tea!



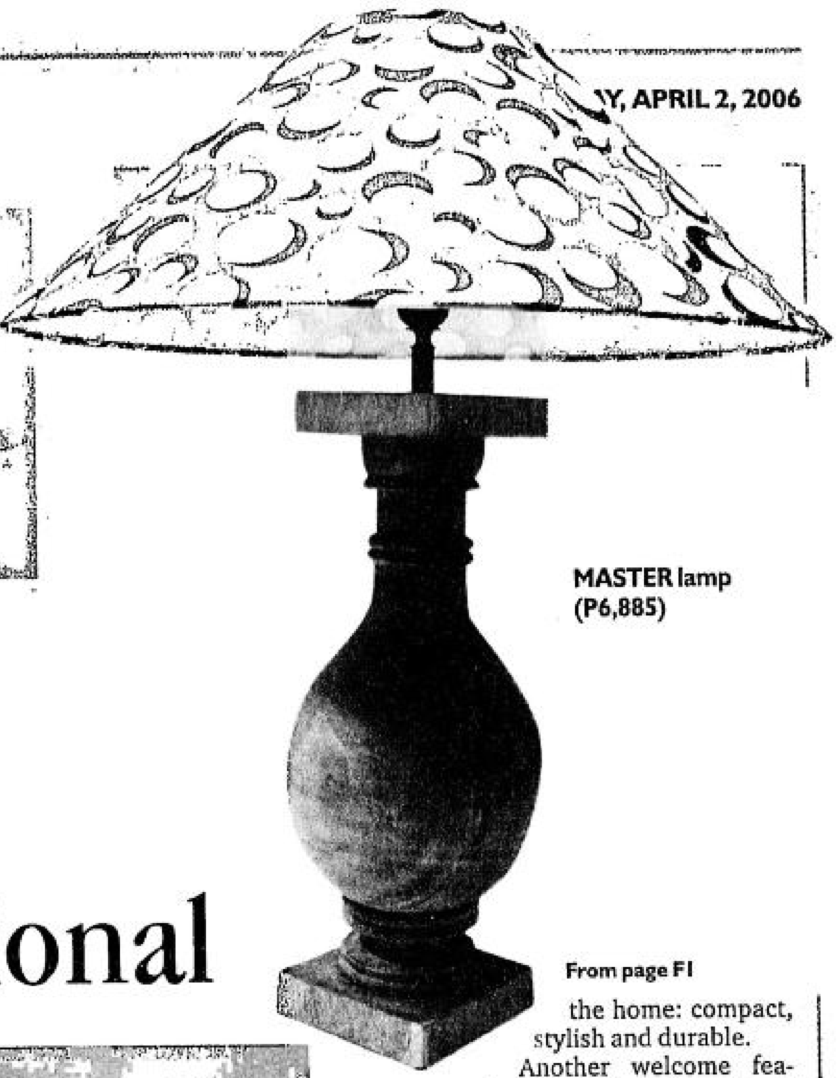
YATCH lamp (P7,885)



MASTER lamp (P6,885)



STRIPE Bowl lamp (P5,885)



MASTER lamp (P6,885)

Streamlined but multidimensional

From page F1

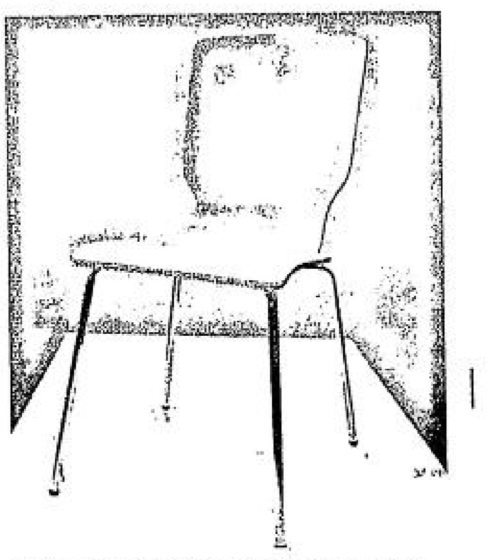
the home: compact, stylish and durable.

Another welcome feature among singles and newlyweds, of course, is Dimensioné's reasonable prices. The products they carry, says Lumbad, have been carefully sourced from all over the world based not only on trendy colors, product dimensions and designs, but also on ideal price points

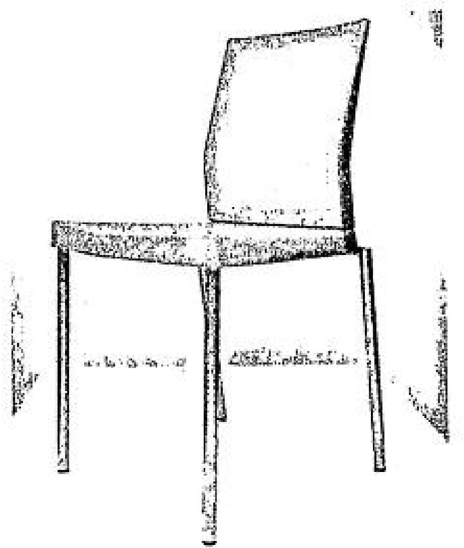
"But even if they're affordably priced, our pieces remain strong on such aspects as comfort and style," he adds.

Living on one's own or moving to a new home with your own family has become a reassuring prospect with the help of home stores like Dimensioné.

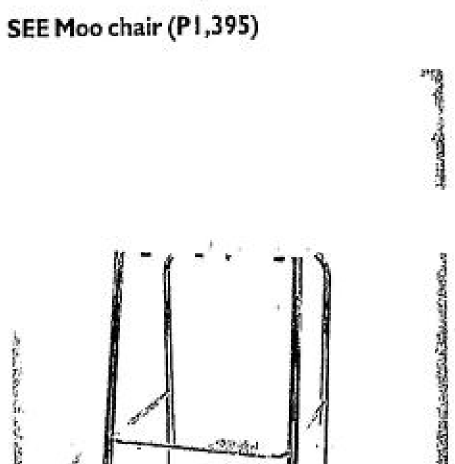
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



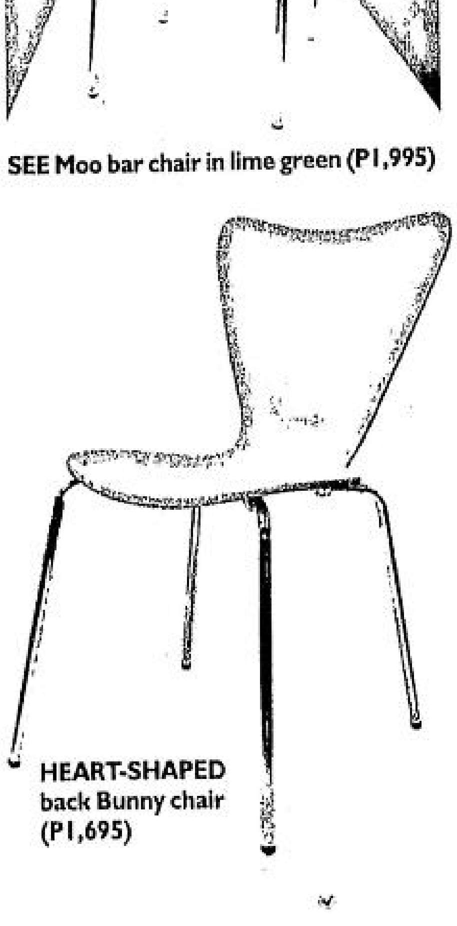
SQUARE-BACK Bunny chair (P1,695)



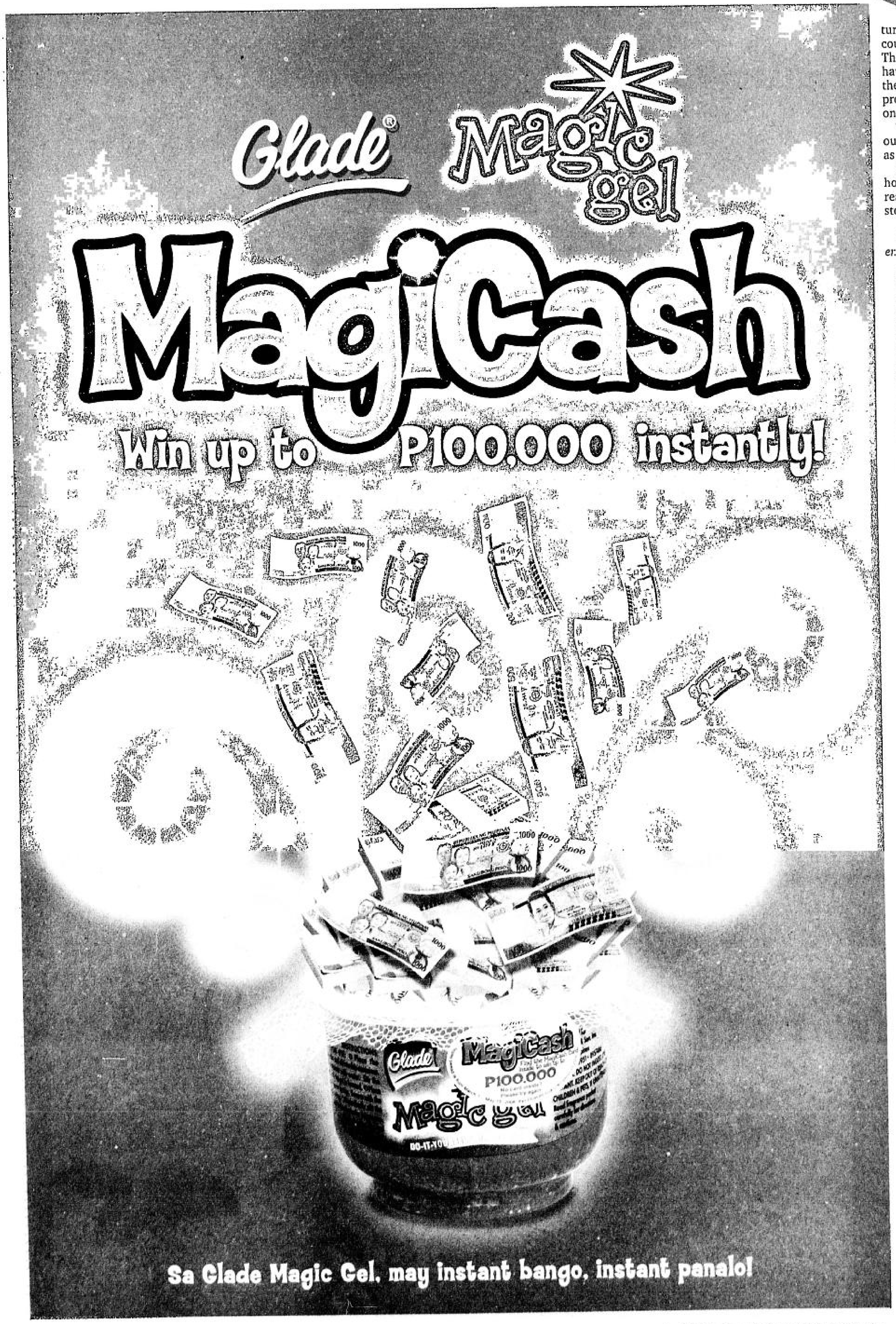
SEE Moo chair (P1,395)



SEE Moo bar chair in lime green (P1,995)



HEART-SHAPED back Bunny chair (P1,695)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How to join:

1) Buy any Glade Magic Gel regular (Décor pack not included) at any leading supermarket, drugstore, grocery and hardware store nationwide.

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3) Claim your prize by calling the toll-free number on the winning card. You'll be informed of the designated redemption area nearest you.

4) Winners must present their MagiCash winning card, 2 Valid ID's, TIN No. issued by BIR and the Glade Magic Gel product purchased to redeem the cash prize. Do not scratch the silver coating on the winning card or else your entry will be null and void. The security code on your winning MagiCash card will be validated before prizes will be awarded.

5) Promo runs from March 1, 2006 to May 15, 2006. Cash prizes must be redeemed on or before July 15, 2006.

6) Taxes will be shouldered by S.C. Johnson & Son Inc.

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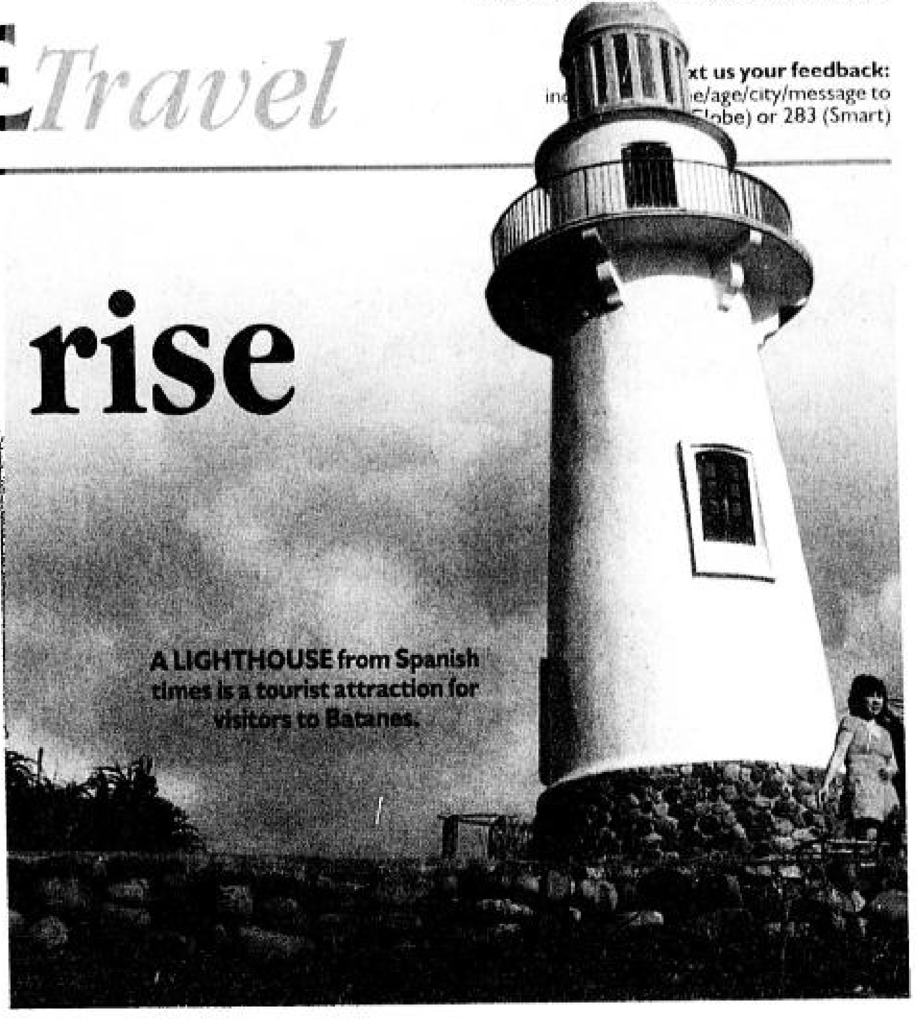
Batanes on the rise

Text by Bibsy M. Carballo
Photos by Romy Fernando,.Malone Santos, Sandra Nepomuceno



A LIGHTHOUSE from Spanish times is a tourist attraction for visitors to Batanes.

ONE SUMMER WAY BACK IN THE '70S, WE MUST HAVE been among the few intrepid souls who ventured into yet uncharted seas and unexplored lands when we took off on a whim for Basco, Batanes.

Armed with nothing but our sense of adventure, we boarded a PAL plane, then the only carrier servicing the island weekly. With us was the late great director Lino Brocka and two of his friends, as he was then interested in scouring the country for locations for his movies.

After an hour-and-a-half flight, we caught sight of what appeared to be the dirt runway, a couple of carabaos lazing about, and a group of grade school children running around, clapping their hands in welcome of the aircraft. The plane made several circles around the runway as we glimpsed the children shooing away the carabaos before we made our historic landing.

Upon deplaning, the kids were still there crowding us with silent curiosity. Who were these strangers, their eyes seemed to ask, and why were they here? This served as our unique introduction to the island, and what was to follow.

We boarded a jeepney, which we were later told was the only one on the island, and asked the driver to take us to the church in town. The Filipino parish priest, whose name we have already forgotten, was surprised to see us. Immediately, he offered to house us even before we asked and serve as our unofficial tour guide during the week-long visit.

Smallest province

We were told Batanes is the smallest Philippine province in terms of population and land area (209 sq km, half of which are hills and mountains). The pop-

BATANES/ G2

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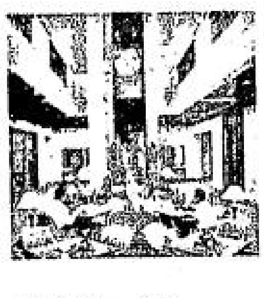

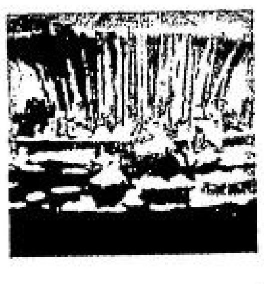

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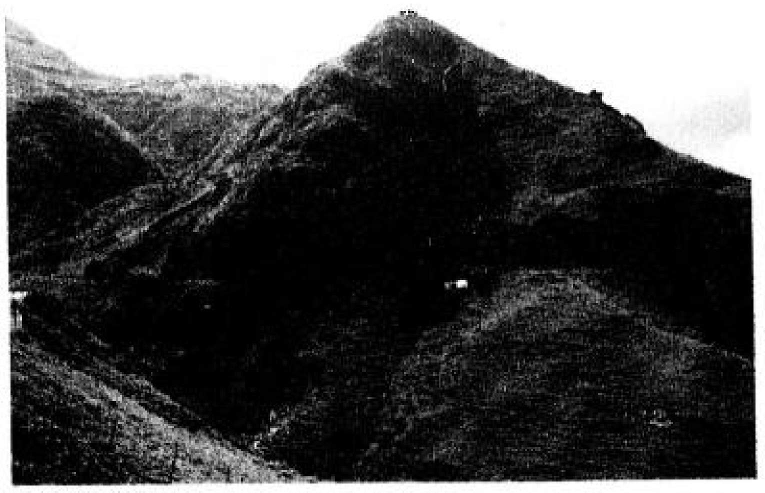
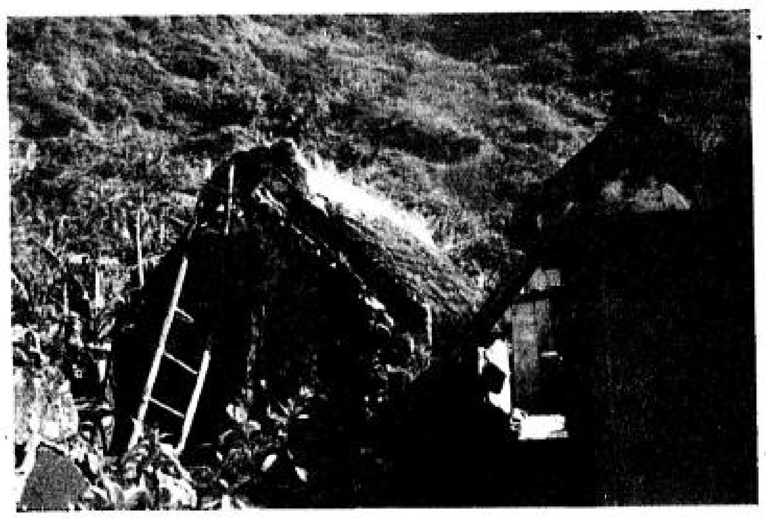
SCENERY for an artist's palette in the Batanes seascape



MARLBORO country



A TRADITIONAL stone house in Sabtang

INTE

Batanes on the rise

From page G1

ulation then all over the province was a little over 11,000, with 40 percent concentrated in the capital Basco.

Ten small volcanic islands make up the province, only three of them inhabited—Sabtang, Itbayat and Batan with the capital Basco, plus Ivana, Uyugan, and Mahatao which we visited.

The islands of Sabtang and Itbayat were supposedly interesting locations, but we were not that adventurous as to venture out after hearing stories that one had to jump from the boat to the cliff at Itbayat, which didn't have a pier at that time. We also heard of people getting stranded in Sabtang due to bad weather and having to stay for months on the island.

Batan was sufficient for us at the moment. Taking the only jeep on the island, we toured the rolling hills that could only remind one of the Scottish highlands with similar small stone houses, except that the houses had thick cogon roofing, with carabaos and cattle grazing in the rolling hills. The entire scenario was of another country. There were no nipa huts to remind us that we were in the Philippines, and the radio blasted away with broadcasts from Taiwan.

We found women in the fields garbed in the *vacul*, a traditional woven headgear of grass that kept the wearer cool during the day and warm during the rainy season. We never found this particular headgear in any other province.

Batanes is the northernmost cluster of islands in the Philippines, home of the typhoons, closer to Taiwan than to the Philippine mainland (190 km south of Taiwan, and 280 km from Aparri). It is said that one could hear the cock crow all the way from Taiwan in Batanes, and it is the only province with winter from November to February, summer from March to May, the rainy season from June to October, and a two-week Indian summer sometime between September and October.

Apart from the weekly flight, with erratic schedules depending on the weather, a navy boat came once a year with supplies from Manila. Batanes was therefore as remote from the mainland as it was in culture and language. Anthropologists described Ivatan as an Austronesian language (not a dialect, but a language, the residents constantly emphasized).

30 years later

The Batanes of today is totally different from our memories of 30 years ago. Although still ravaged by typhoons, still small in population (only over 16,000 province-wide), still our only province with "winter" as a season, still blessed with unpolluted air, waters and picture-pretty rolling hills and natural rock formations, we can count on our fingers the number of traditional stone houses and can no longer find women wearing the *vacul*.

Instead, the homes are of cement, especially in town centers, and the *vacul* is found for sale in the marketplace as tourist mementos, and in the new Globe commercial. Technology has obviously arrived in the form of Internet cafés, and the cell phone and *ukay-ukay* from Manila litter the many small shops in Basco.

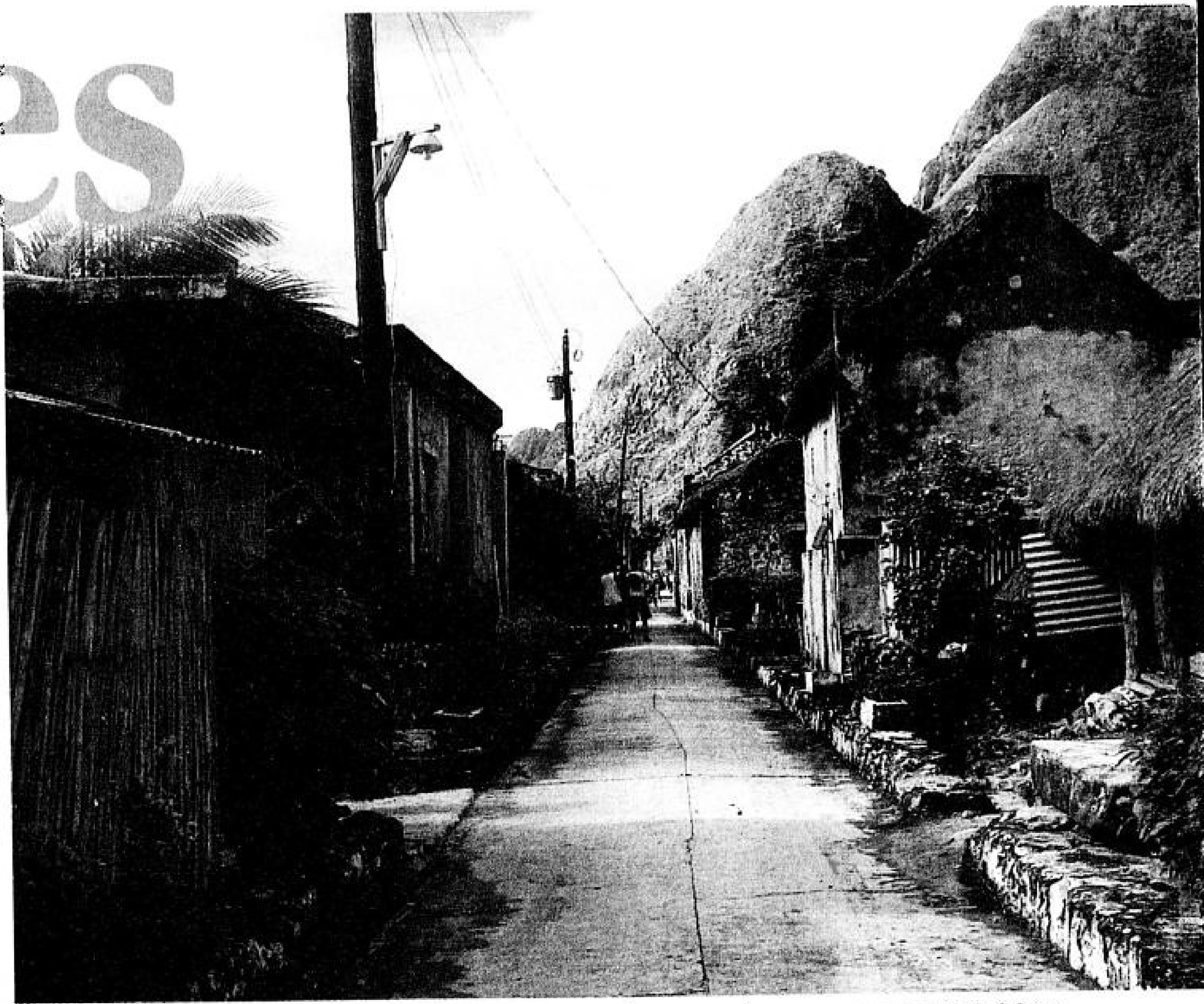
The rolling hills are still as attractive as they were in "Hihintayin Ka Sa Langit" which beat Brocka to being the first to do a film on the islands. But today some of the hills are dubbed "Marlboro Country" and pretty soon, perhaps we will find there a "Brokeback Mountain."

The Department of Tourism has listed the province as an "emerging destination." There are various inns, led by the Batanes Resort with its six duplex-type cottages perched on a hill overlooking the rocky beach, and the Ivatan Lodge in town with its modest rates, both operated by the provincial government.

There are now more forms of transport—at least 50 jeepneys in Basco and 30 more in the other municipalities, and tricycles all over Basco. However, there is still no moviehouse in Basco, and fast-food chains are unknown in this province.

Asian Spirit operates a twice-weekly direct flight from Manila, its other flights of the week include a stop-over in Tuguegarao. Batanes' roads are paved, and carabaos no longer roam the runway. Package tours are becoming popular with domestic and foreign travelers. Apart from its natural attractions, the province's other tourist stops include vestiges of the Dominican presence in churches all over the islands, lighthouses that are always a photographic delight, and the house of the late international Ivatan artist Pacita Abad that now stands against the landscape and the skies as a loving tribute to the artist who has finally come home to rest.

The crime rate is low with most crimes committed by transients, mostly Taiwanese who find it so easy to get to the islands. Along with crime and the tourists come the threat of destruction of the environment and cultural heritage. And this is what this "emerging destination" has to face now.



CEMENT roads, combination of stone and cement houses, cogon roofing on some homes are common sights in Sabtang.

"UKAY-UKAY" shops with clothes brought all the way from Manila

Protected zone

In 2001, Congress passed a law declaring the province as a permanently protected zone. That same year, the province also applied to be included in the Unesco World Cultural Heritage list. According the elders in the province, there are 539 cultural sites and 138 natural sites in the province up for consideration.

The unique wildlife of the province qualifies Batanes as a landscape and seascape deserving of protection due to its importance to migratory birds from Northeast Asia and Japan. The valichit, a small brown bird found only in Batanes every September, has of late diminished in numbers, a fate similarly suffered by the kuyab or grey-faced buzzard.

The traditional stone dwellings of limestone, reeds and grass roofs are also disappearing, although there are some to be found in Ivana and Uyugan, and on the island of Sabtang.

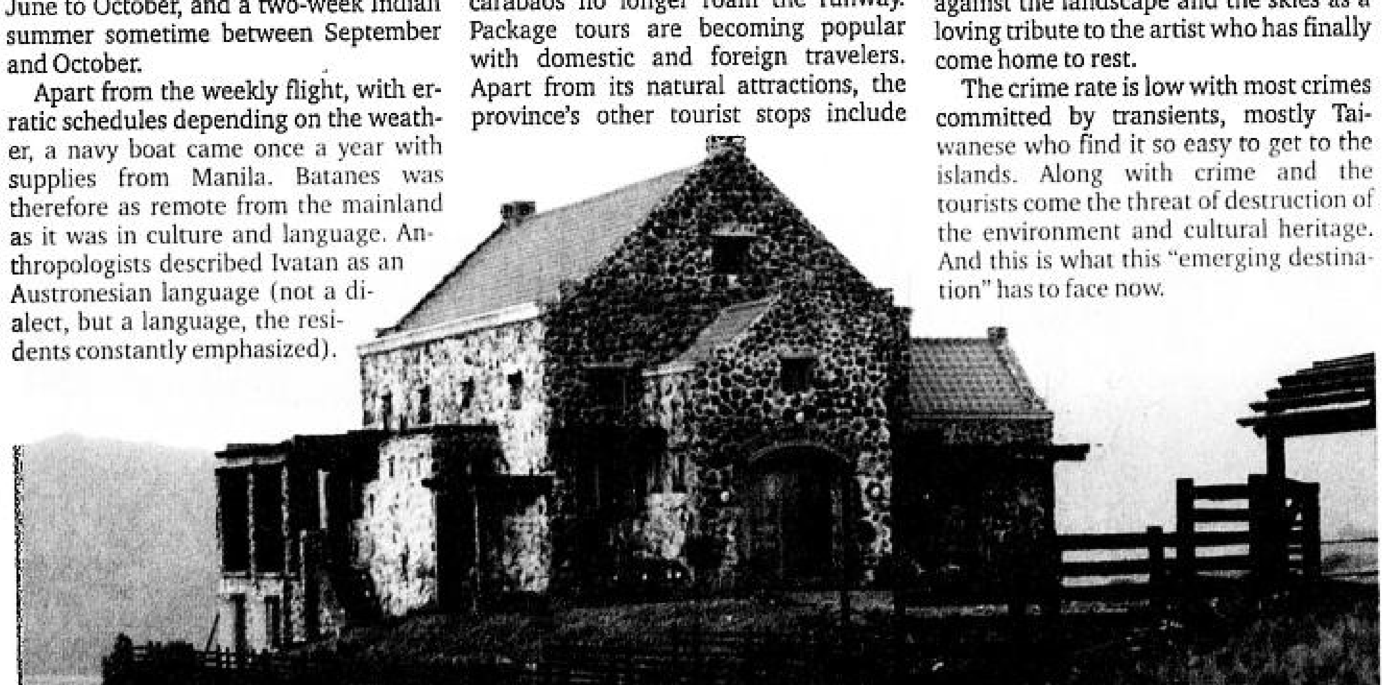
The median age in Batanes is 22. It is obviously a young population even if a good percentage leave for the mainland to pursue a career. However, there are quite a number who acquire education in Manila and return home to practice what they have learned. Like the young and articulate OIC of Batanes Resort, Tess Delatado. After graduating with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management at Arellano University in Manila, she quickly returned to Basco and now is one of the more vocal advocates of responsible tourism in the area.

She tells us stories of how foreigners have been showing such interest in the place that they have offered to buy the resort as well as portions of the province, with promises of helping the islanders protect their natural resources. But she is not easily swayed by their glib tongues. Perhaps her education in Manila has taught her that—not to be too trusting and too naïve.

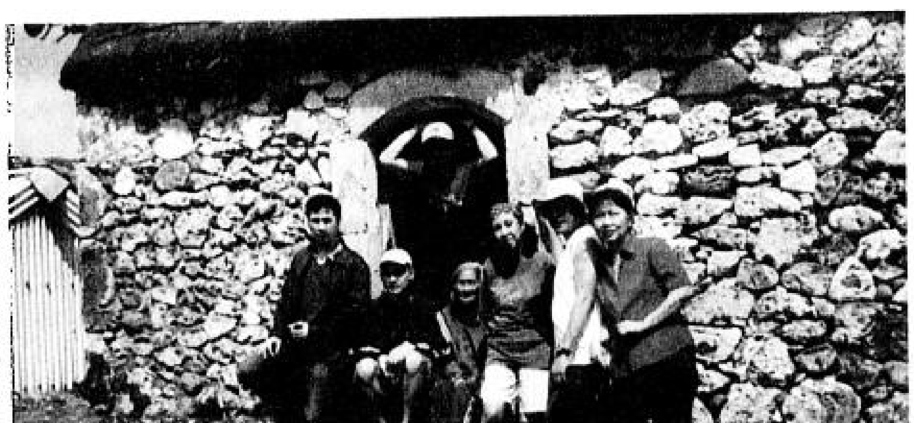
Tess is caught in a dilemma that faces many of the young residents of this island paradise. Would they succumb to the temptation of letting in the moneyed investors who will develop the islands for commercial tourism and ultimately destroy its natural beauty? Or will they hang on to what they have and be content with being the backward province it still is today?

Or is there a middle ground, a way for responsible progress and eco-tourism? Only time and the next decade will tell.

Email the author at bibsymcar@yahoo.com

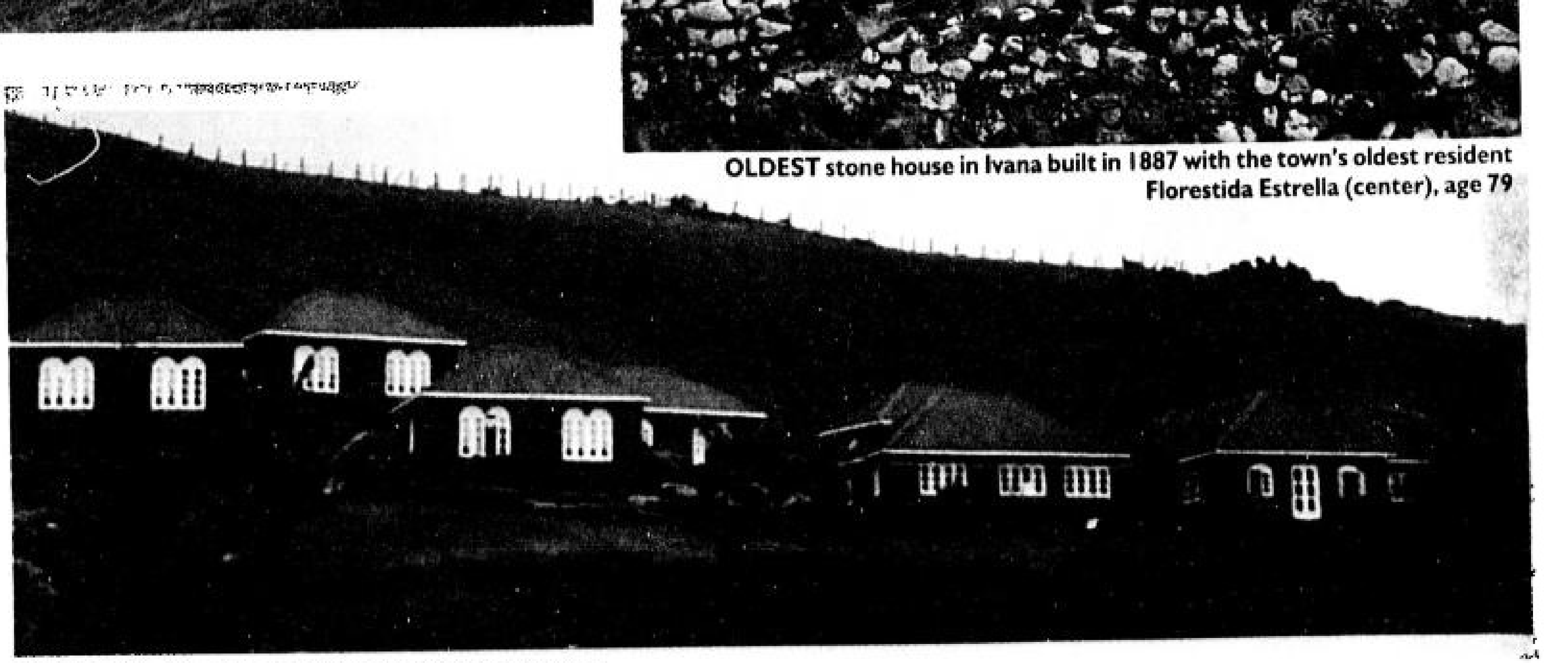


PACITA Abad's house and museum on a hill in Basco

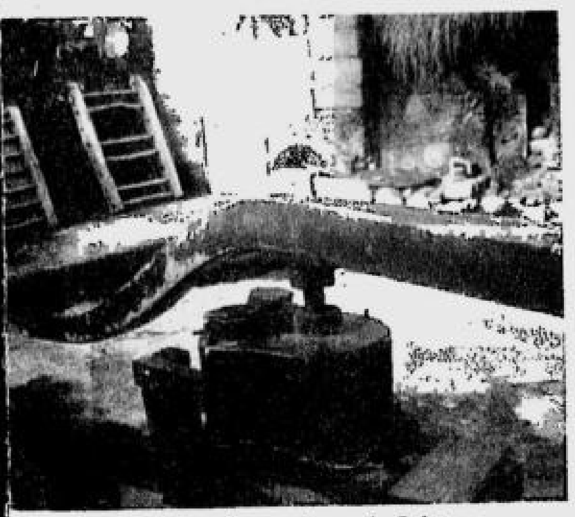


OLDEST stone house in Ivana built in 1887 with the town's oldest resident Florestida Estrella (center), age 79

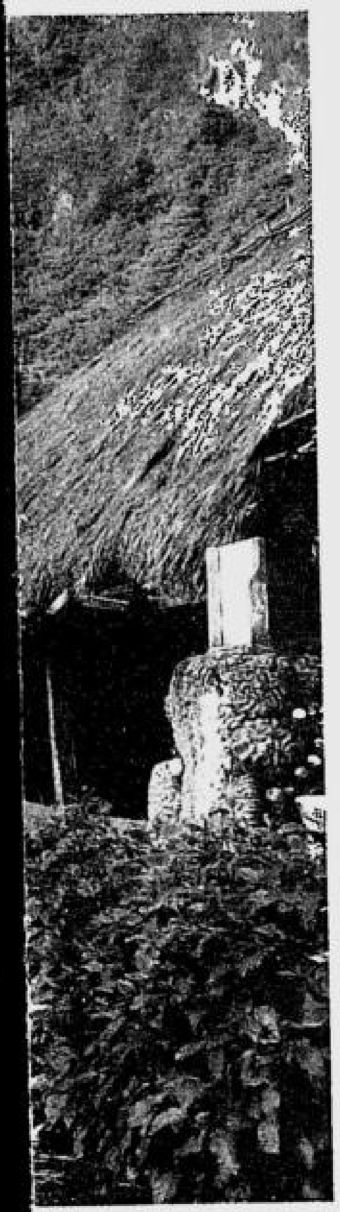
TEENAGE boys play the ubiquitous basketball game next to a cemented version of the old stone house



COTTAGES of the Batanes Resort on the hills of Basco



RIOR of a traditional stone house in Sabtang



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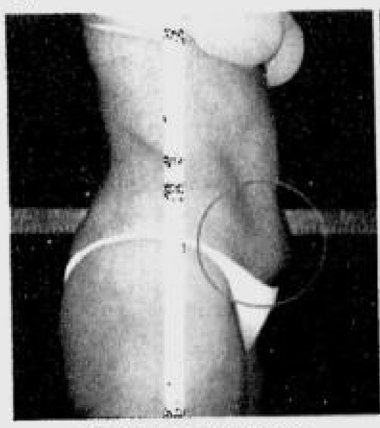
Lipo Without The Suction

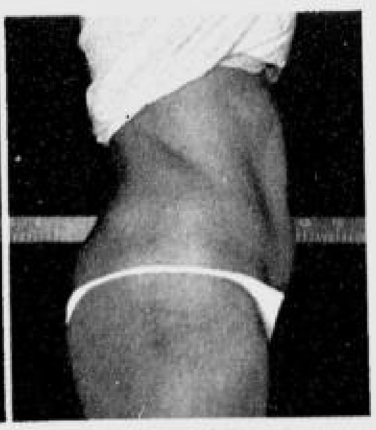
Marie France brings to Manila the 1st Non-invasive breakthrough in Body Contouring

PLASTIC surgeons have invented a machine that can 'melt away' body fat in a patient's lunchbreak – ULTRASHAPE. This treatment gets rid of unwanted bulges and unlike liposuction does not require surgery. FAST, EFFECTIVE and SAFE, it's the most advanced method of body contouring to date.

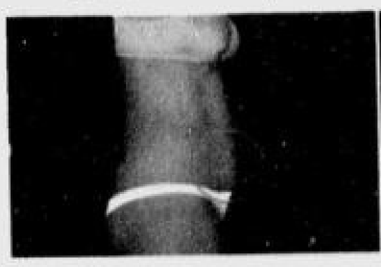
Ultrashape was founded 5 years ago in Delaware, USA by Ami Glicksman M.D., formerly a senior plastic surgeon and Yoram Eshel, PhD, MBA, a leading expert in medical physics with 15 years experience in high-power ultrasound technology. Together they set out to pioneer non-invasive body contouring. When they started Ultrashape, it was well known that ultrasound waves were able to break down and destroy fat cells, releasing the fat contained within them. Some form of liposuction had already started experimenting with ultrasound probes to liquefy fat and make it easier to suck them out. Glicksman and Eshel built on that to come up with a unique concept of Ultrashape.



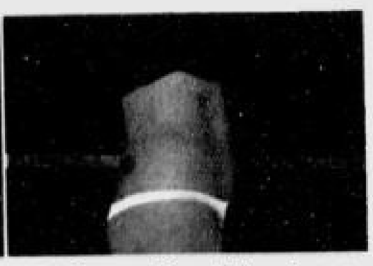
Before Ultrashape



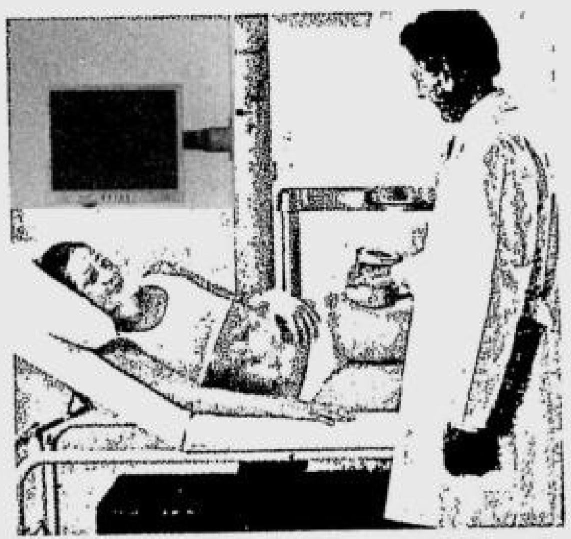
14 Days After Ultrashape



Before Ultrashape



28 Days After Ultrashape



Using a focused ultrasound beam, Ultrashape destroys fat cells effectively in the stomach, thighs (saddlebags), lovehandles and buttocks. It works by focusing high frequency ultrasound waves from outside the body to targeted areas. These ultrasonic waves break down fat cells without damaging blood vessels or other tissue such as skin, muscle, bone and nerves. From there, the broken down cells are absorbed into the patient's white blood cells and are then eliminated from the body through natural processes.

Ultrashape promises an average of about 2 cm in a single treatment.

According to Dr. Eshel, "The inherent safety of our method lies in the fact that we only do half the traditional job compared to liposuction and let nature do the rest." Physiological clearance of the fat tissue occurs over a period of 3 weeks following the procedure, similar to the way the body clears out damaged tissue found in a bruise.

Normally about 4 sessions are recommended to fully achieve one's ideal figure. Women and men who have tried it are excited about the fact that immediate results were seen already after just a single session.

Ultrashape promises an average of about 2 cm in a single treatment. It is an easy procedure. No anesthesia is required because it is non-invasive. You walk in, get the treatment and walk out. It's as easy as that. There is no recovery period. Patients can resume their normal activities right after a treatment. It does not have the risks of liposuction and can be used to effectively deal with small problem areas of fat. Probably the safest and most effective non-invasive slimming treatment to date, Ultrashape is definitely a breakthrough in body contouring.

Ultrashape is now available at Marie-France. Call 894-BODY (2639) for your free consultation.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Fun and games for beach lovers

WHITEROCK in Subic promises a lot of fun and games for Filipino beach lovers this summer. Men can jet ski, go kayaking or drive a speedboat. Women can get some pampering at the resort's Wellness Center with its two-in-one promo prices on body, foot and facial treatments. Children can enjoy the swimming pools, game room, KTV, beach volleyball, bowling center and, for the very young ones, the playpen. Other amenities include the jacuzzi at the Spa, better-equipped gym, additional rest areas, free coffee and tea in all rooms, renovated bath and beach shower rooms, improved air-conditioning, plus added features at Greg's Waterworld, including flying fish and banana boat. Whiterock offers more items in its seafood menu and international buffet. Call 4212781, 4212782 or 4212785; or e-mail reservation@whiterockbeachhotel.com. Visit www.whiterockbeachhotel.com.

AWESOME views can be enjoyed even at the swimming pool, tucked inside the resort property.

PaX draws tourists for different Palawan experience

A Philippine hotel's tour services are giving Palawan tourists more than just the average sun, sea and sand experience. PaX: The Legend Palawan Experience presents diverse tourism choices and is helping the province reach its target of 600,000 tourists in three years.

Offered by The Legend Palawan in the provincial capital of Puerto Princesa, PaX treats guests to a choice of tour packages. These include the Honda Bay Island Cruise: a day of sun, sea and sand across several islands; the Underground River Adventure in the 8.2-km long river under Mount St. Paul; the city tour through Puerto Princesa's landmarks and nearby attractions like a butterfly garden and crocodile farm; and a leisurely cruise aboard MV Legend of the Sea across the pristine waters of Puerto Princesa's outlying islands. Every tour is accompanied by experienced tour hosts, who are knowledgeable, accommodating and friendly.

A special PaX tour package for a three-day, two-night stay at The Legend Palawan is available until the end of the year. A minimum of two guests and a maximum of five guests can enjoy buffet meal at the hotel's legendary Tanglaw Restaurant, one set dinner at a PaX partner restaurant in the city, the Honda Bay Island Cruise, the Underground River Tour, transfers, licensed tour hosts and costs for all permits, entrance and cottage fees.

"The tour itineraries can cover a culinary adventure, nature-tripping, wild life observation, arts and culture tours. As the last nature frontier in the country, Puerto Princesa uniquely offers that variety. This is a modern city in the midst of nature reserves," said Ginger K. Villavicencio, Assistant Vice-President of Legend Hotels International (LHI) Corporation, the hotel's mother company.

The 14-year old Filipino hotel chain boasts of several properties including The Legend Villas, The Mabuhay Manor and Kabayan Hotels. Guests can stay at these sister properties and avail of special rates before flying on to Puerto Princesa for a stay in The Legend Palawan. Like its sister properties, the hotel carries the same brand of service and super-value accommodations.

Visitors can try more than one Legend Hotels property with introduction of The Legend Experience. This seven-day tour package lets visitors enjoy a stay at either The Legend Villas or The Mabuhay Manor in Metro Manila, and then move on to The Legend Palawan in Puerto Princesa. The tour package includes buffet breakfasts, a tour in Manila, Underground River and Honda Island Tours in Palawan, packed meals on tours, transfers and costs of permits, entrance and cottage fees.

The Legend Palawan offers standard, premium and deluxe rooms as well as larger suites. The hotel typically attracts families and corporate groups. With the addition of diverse package tours, the hotel expects foreign and local leisure travelers to rise in the summer months.

The Legend Palawan is located in Malvar St., Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. For inquiries, please contact the Manila Central Sales & Reservations telephone + 632 7022700 to 04, Fax + 632 6389255 to 56 or visit www.legendhotels.com.ph.

Tagaytay visitors

OFFICIALS of Zichuan Town in Shandong Province, east of Beijing, visited Tagaytay Highlands recently. The SM Investment Corp., led by its chair, Henry Sy Sr., gave the Chinese guests, led by director Wang Shuhai, a tour of the Highlands. The Chinese visitors were impressed by the all-Western red cedar log cabin village, The Woodlands. Belle Corp., winner of the "Best in Leisure Property Development" award during the 23rd edition of the National Consumers Awards and People's Choice Awards, is the developer of the Tagaytay Highlands, Midlands, and Greenlands properties.

More Paris flights

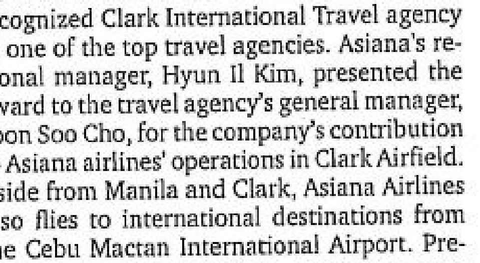
EMIRATES, the Dubai-based international airline, has doubled daily flights to Paris, increasing both seat and cargo capacity. The airline currently operates 12 flights a week to Paris. The increase in number of flights will offer customers greater flexibility. The additional flights will be serviced by the 237-seat Airbus A330-200 aircraft, configured in three classes. Members of Skywards, Emirates' frequent flyer program, can earn Skywards Miles when flying in any class between Dubai and Paris in either direction.

Top agency

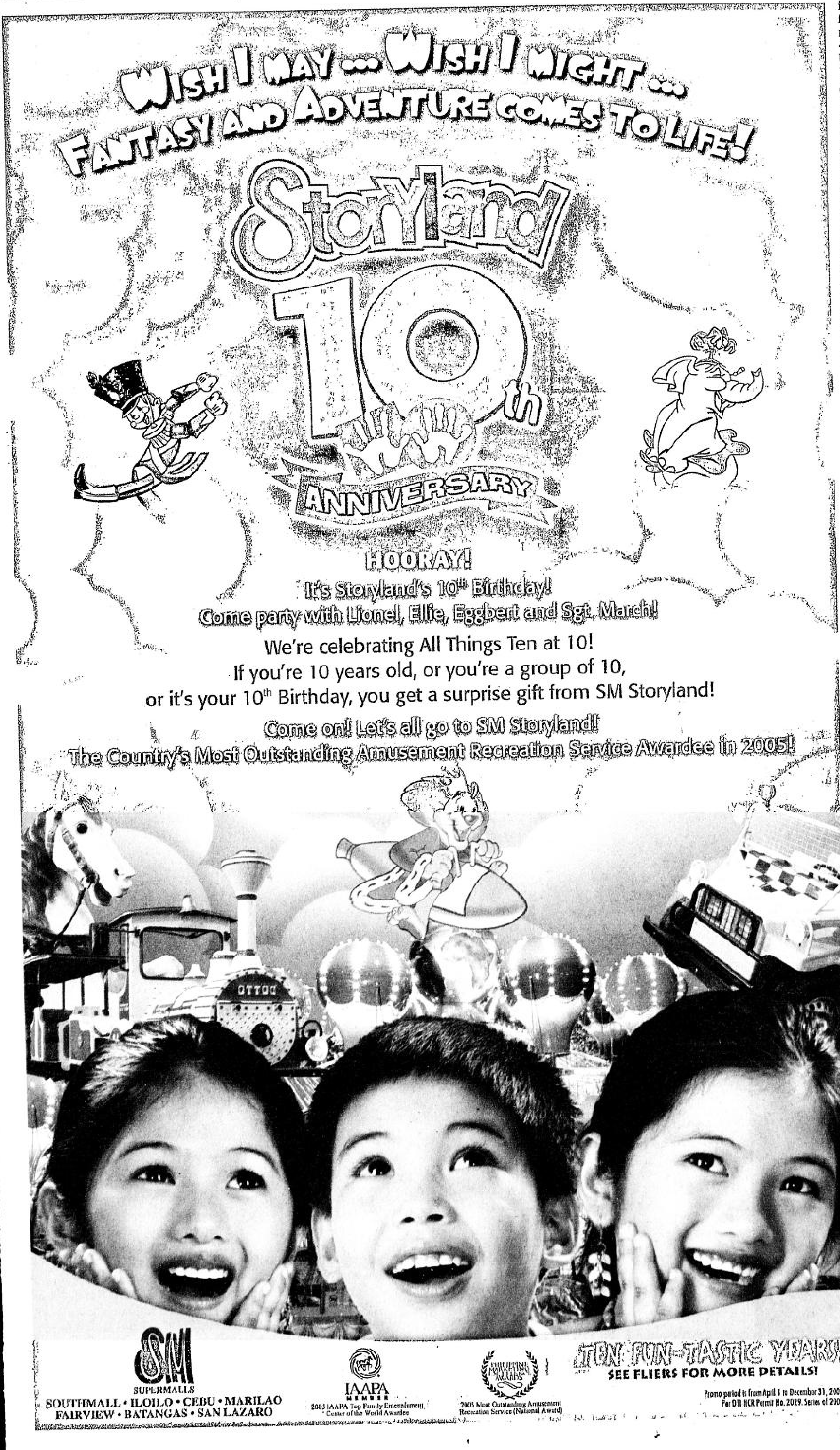
KOREAN national carrier Asiana Airlines has recognized Clark International Travel agency as one of the top travel agencies. Asiana's regional manager, Hyun Il Kim, presented the award to the travel agency's general manager, Yoon Soo Cho, for the company's contribution to Asiana airlines' operations in Clark Airfield. Aside from Manila and Clark, Asiana Airlines also flies to international destinations from the Cebu Mactan International Airport. Present during the awarding ceremony were Asiana Airlines passenger sales representatives Nikki Confiado and Abby Lobitana; Asiana Airlines acting GM for passenger Gisela Tibia, and acting passenger sales manager Jeannie Magluyan.

Shopping hotspot

SIAM Paragon, Bangkok's newest shopping destination, is just a flight away via Thai Airways. The store has over 50 international and domestic jewelry makers. It also houses Thailand's largest supermarket (the Gourmet Market), a food court, upscale retail stores, luxury car display rooms, book stores, lifestyle shops, fashion, beauty and many others. Future developments include a five-star hotel (to be managed by Six Continents Hotels, owner of Siam Intercontinental), Asia's largest oceanarium (Siam Ocean World), a cinema and bowling complex, and even an opera theater (Siam Opera). Siam Paragon is a joint venture of The Mall Group (operator of The Mall Department Stores, Emporium Shopping Complex and Siam Discovery Center) and Bangkok International Hotels Inc. Thai Airways now includes this new shopping mecca in its Royal Orchid Holidays tour packages. Call 8124744 (Makati); 5280122-25 (Manila); (032)2322405 (Cebu) or www.thaiairways.com. Thai flies 12 times weekly to Bangkok.



SIAM Paragon



WISH I MAY ... WISH I MIGHT ...
FANTASY AND ADVENTURE COMES TO LIFE!
Storyland 10th ANNIVERSARY
HOORAY!
It's Storyland's 10th Birthday!
Come party with Lionel, Ellie, Eggbert and Sgt. March!
We're celebrating All Things Ten at 10!
If you're 10 years old, or you're a group of 10,
or it's your 10th Birthday, you get a surprise gift from SM Storyland!
Come on! Let's all go to SM Storyland!
The Country's Most Outstanding Amusement Recreation Service Awardee in 2005!
SM SUPERMALLS
SOUTHMALL • ILOILO • CEBU • MARILAO
FAIRVIEW • BATANGAS • SAN LAZARO
IAAPA MEMBER
2003 IAAPA Top Family Entertainment Center of the World Awardee
2005 Most Outstanding Amusement Recreation Service (National Award)
TEN FUN-TASTIC YEARS!
SEE FLIERS FOR MORE DETAILS!
Promo period is from April 1 to December 31, 2006.
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2029, Series of 2006.

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☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of the following Equipment:

Equipment	Quantity	Approved Budget*	Cost of Bid Documents
		Source of Fund: DBP Fund	
Document Scanner	1	P 320,000.00	P 500.00
Duplicating Machine	1	P 550,000.00	P 500.00
Microfilming Machine	2	P1,800,000.00	P 500.00
Multimedia (LCD) Projector	9	P 630,000.00	P 500.00
Phoroptor Head	1	P 250,000.00	P 500.00
Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Four (4) units 3 Tonner and One (1) unit 2 Tonner Airconditioning Unit for DBP Head Office and Commonwealth Branch	1 lot	P 385,000.00	P 500.00

*Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

Expected Date of Delivery: June 2006
Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	April 18, 2006 (Tuesday) at 9:00 a.m.	6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of May 2, 2006 (Tuesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals (Prospective bidders are encouraged to witness this activity)	May 2, 2006 (Tuesday) at 1:30 p.m.	6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines and must have been authorized to engage in the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of the aforesaid Office Equipment for at least three (3) years.** Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a **non-refundable fee depending on the total amount of the approved budget of the contract of a particular item/s the prospective bidder intends to bid. Only those prospective bidders who bought the bid documents will be allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference scheduled on April 18, 2006.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8125702/8189511 loc. 2610

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--April 2 & 9, 2006)

A Multinational Company is in need of an:

OFFICE SPACE

Requirements:
- Location: **Makati, Ortigas Center, EDSA, or people-traffic areas**
- With Showroom: **250 - 300 sq.m.**
- Office Space: **1,000 - 1,200 sq.m.**
- With Parking Area: **Good for 12 - 15 vehicles**
- Price range: **Php 150 - Php 200 per square meter**

Brokers who wish to offer lease properties are requested to submit property listings and get in touch with:

MENCHIE F. PENA
Tel. Nos. 527-82-11 to 19 local 144 or 527-18-75
Fax No. 527-18-73
Email address: hrdepartment@singermanila.com.ph

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising HOTLINES:

HEAD OFFICE:
897-8808 loc. 514, 516, 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO: (Aurora)
912-9008 to 11
MAKATI:
892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW: 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL: 635-0219; 635-0220

MORIROKU PHILIPPINES INC.

115 North Science Avenue Laguna Technopark Binan 4024, Binan, Laguna
Tel. # (049) 541-28-92 / 2893 Fax # (049) 541-27-91 / 2891

A Japanese manufacturing firm engaged in production of plastic parts automobile is currently needs of:

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Female
- Single, at least 22-25 years old
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Computer literate
- At least one year work experienced

QUALITY ENGINEERS

- Female
- Single, at least 22-26 years old
- Graduate of BS Industrial Engineering
- Preferably knowledgeable on QA Function

JOB YOUR [illegible] BETTE[illegible] JOB

LCC
TABACO LEGAZPI NAGA

BICOL'S NO. 1 RETAILER AND MALL OPERATOR INVITES DYNAMIC AND GOAL ORIENTED PROFESSIONALS

REGIONAL MALL ADMINISTRATION MANAGER
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years relevant experience in mall operations in a managerial capacity

REGIONAL LEASING MANAGER
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years relevant experience in tenant franchising operation and lease negotiation in a managerial capacity.

VISUAL MERCHANDISING DEPARTMENT HEAD
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years exposure in retail, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

MARKETING / ADVERTISING / EVENTS DEPARTMENT HEAD
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years experience in developing and implementing marketing plans, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HEAD
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years extensive experience in personnel management, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

TRAINING DEPARTMENT HEAD
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years experience in the administration of training program, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial capaicty

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT HEAD
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years of combined programming, system analysis, networking exposure, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HEAD (FOR BREAD / CAKES / PASTRIES)
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years experience in research, quality assurance and product development, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS - 2
- College graduate
- Not over 30 years old
- At least 2 years related technical experience

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR
- College graduate
- Not over 30 years old
- At least 2 years related technical experience

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
- College graduate
- Not over 30 years old
- At least 2 years related technical experience

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS (FINANCE - 3)
- College graduate
- Not over 30 years old
- At least 1 year related experience

REGIONAL STORE OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR DEPARTMENT STORE
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years relevant experience in retail / sales operation in a managerial capacity

STORE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT HEADS (DEPARTMENT STORE / SUPERMARKET / FOOD OPERATIONS - 3)
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years relevant experience in retail / sales operation, with 3 years in a supervisory/managerial capacity

MERCHANDISING DEPARTMENT HEAD FOR DEPARTMENT STORE
- College graduate
- Female, not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years retail merchandising experience, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

MERCHANDISE PLANNING AND CONTROL DEPARTMENT HEAD
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years exposure in retail operations, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

FINANCE DEPARTMENT HEAD
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years experience in all facets of finance, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

AUDITING DEPARTMENT HEAD
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years experience in auditing, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years relevant experience, with 3 years in a supervisory/ managerial capacity in a retail set-up

WAREHOUSE DEPARTMENT HEAD
- College graduate
- Not over 40 years old
- At least 5 years relevant experience in warehousing operations in a retail set-up, with 3 years in a supervisory / managerial capacity

SUPERVISORS (FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS - 14)
- College graduate
- Not over 30 years old
- At least 1 year experience in a supervisory capacity

BUYERS (DEPARTMENT STORE /SUPERMARKET - 5)
- College graduate
- Not over 30 years old
- At least 1 year buying experience

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS (SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT - 3)
- College graduate
- Not over 30 years old
- At least 1 year related experience

Interested applicants may apply in person or send resumé to:

LCC HRD Department
Quezon Avenue, Legaspi City
Tel. No. 480-78-10 to 13
E-mail: recruitment-lc@lccgroup.com
(FOR REGIONAL MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEAD POSITIONS)

LCC HRD Department
Ziga Avenue, Tabaco City
Tel. No. 487-53-56
E-mail: recruitment-ta@lccgroup.com
(SUPERVISORY/TECHNICAL POSITIONS)

LCC HRD Department
Felix Plazo St., Naga City
Tel. No. 472-06-29
E-mail: recruitment-ng@lccgroup.com
(SUPERVISORY/TECHNICAL POSITIONS)

APPLICANTS MUST BE WILLING TO BE ASSIGNED IN BICOL

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – Metro Manila
DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Tala, Caloocan City
Telefax: 962-82-09 / Tel. 962-98-84

March 22, 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital invites responsible and duly accredited suppliers from DOH/CHD-NCR to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items.

A. FOODSTUFFS
B. ANGLE BAR / MS PLATES
C. INFECTIOUS CONTROL SUPPLIES

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of Bid Documents	April 6, 2006 (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
Pre-Bid Conference	Item A-C April 5, 2006 (1:00 p.m.)
Checking of Eligibility Requirements	April 7-17, 2006 (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Submission and Opening of Bids
ITEMS : A. April 19, 2006 (1:00 a.m.)
B. April 19, 2006 (10:00 a.m.)
C. April 19, 2006 (11:00 a.m.)

Prospective bidders may secure-bid proposal form from the BAC Secretariat, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

All activities shall be held at the Training room, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, Tala, Caloocan City, unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of a certified check, manager's check, or GSIS bond in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid. The Approved Budget Cost is stated on the bid documents.

For further inquiries, interested bidders may contact the BAC Secretariat or call Telephone No. 962-9884 or 962-9886.

Dr. JNRMH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to notice of award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidders of the grounds for the hospital's action.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO SA. JAVILLONAR, MD, MHA
Chief of Sanitarium III

(PDI – March 26 & April 2, 2006)

INVITATION TO BID
"AS IS WHERE IS" DAMAGED MOTOR VEHICLES

1996 MITS L-200 4X2 UNN-655
1997 NISSAN VANETTE MINI BUS WAS-135
2004 NISSAN SENTRA GX 1.3 A/T BCS-270
2006 HONDA CITY 1.3 ZCP-860

For particulars, call **812-4520**

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

PROCUREMENT NOTICE:

Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Desktop Computers and Printers, and Provision of Training and Technical Support Services to National High Schools throughout the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao under the USAID-financed Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, is inviting interested and qualified companies/contractors/suppliers to submit proposals, consisting of separate technical and price proposals for the subject activity. Procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 15 – Contracting by Negotiation and the contract will be awarded to the offeror who best demonstrates its ability to provide the required products/services and supply the required product at the most reasonable price. Essentially, the contracted work shall consist of providing up to 1,071 computers and peripheral equipment to approximately 150 national high schools throughout the provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflict-affected areas in Mindanao (CAAM), based on a procurement/delivery schedule beginning on or about May through October 2006, with the contractor providing follow on operations and maintenance training for recipients, as well as establishing a service and maintenance system. Following is the technical description of the product(s) which are to be supplied by the contractor: U.S.-brand Desktop Computers with the following specifications and add-ons: Intel Celeron 2.66 LGA 775 or its U.S. commercial equivalent, Intel D915GAVL or its U.S. commercial equivalent, 256 MB DRR Memory, 40 GB 7200 RPM HDD, 15" colored monitor, 52x max CD-ROM, Tower Casing w/ 300 watts power supply, Ergonomic keyboard, Multimedia Speakers, Optical Mouse (USB). Built-in sound and video cards, Floppy disk drive, Network adapter LAN Card, AVR, Mouse pad, Glass filter screen, and CPU protective plastic cover; U.S.-brand DeskJet printers with the following specifications: All-in-one desk jet printer (color printing, color copying and scanning) with free 1st set of black and colored ink cartridges, and ink cartridge(s) replacement must be readily available as well as relatively reasonable priced. Only offerors which commit to supply the above-listed hardware will be considered qualified to participate in this solicitation process. Offerors must provide the following information which will also form part of the basis for evaluating their respective offers: Details of their ability to deliver the required products, inclusive of on-time delivery, transport and service arrangements; Description of delivery networks in the areas given and a list of their local affiliates/ distributors/resellers as well as institutional arrangements (if applicable), and a list of present contracts as well as that of successfully completed projects similar to the work requirements described herein Offerors must also demonstrate commitment to the project by providing counterpart staff consisting of a senior counterpart program manager and a training coordinator/ specialist with demonstrated experience in working in the ARMM and CAAM. Further details are listed in the solicitation document.

A pre-proposal submission conference is scheduled at 10:00 AM of Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at the GEM Program Management Office in Davao City. Prospective offerors are expected to send representatives to this meeting. Interested firms should submit their proposals, consisting of three copies of the technical proposal, and one copy of the cost proposal. The proposals must be received no later than 3:00 PM, Thursday, April 27, 2006 at the following address: The Deputy Chief of Party for Contracts and Administration, GEM Program, 2/F 1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Ave., Buhangin, Davao City, 8000 Philippines. A meeting between LBGI and the offerors being considered for award may be held in at the GEM Program Management Office in Davao City on Tuesday, May 2, 2006. Requests for copies of the solicitation document, any other questions or requests for additional information should be directed to the GEM Program Contracts Office via Fax: (082) 225-1454. The GEM Program is financed by USAID and implemented in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
OWWA Center Bldg., F.B. Harrison St., Cor. 7th St., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 891-7601 to 24

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Re-bidding for the Provision of Medical Healthcare Services for all OWWA Employees for a Period of One (1) Year

1. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA)**, through the **2006 Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the OWWA Board of Trustees,** intends to apply the sum of **five million four hundred fifty four thousand pesos (P5,454,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract **for the provision of medical healthcare services for OWWA employees.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA)** now re-invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **the provision of medical healthcare services through a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)** for **303 OWWA employees including one (1) dependent for each for a period of one (1) year.** The effective date of the contract is **June 21, 2006.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to legal, technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **OWWA BAC Secretariat** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 to 5:00pm.**

   Room 301, Third Floor, OWWA Center Building
   FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the above-named address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **one thousand five hundred pesos only (Php1,500.00)** starting **April 06, 2006 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.** The method of payment will be **cash or manager's check.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The **OWWA** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **April 20, 2006 10:00am at Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **May 04, 2006 2:00 pm.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of **cash, or certified check or cashier's check or bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit.** Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **May 04, 2006 2:00 pm at the Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The **OWWA** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Agency : Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
Contract Person : Dir. Ma. Lourdes V. Reyes
Address : OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City
Telephone No. : 834-0170
Facsimile No. : 833-1010
Email Address : owwabac@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) DIR. ALBERTO Q. VALENCIANO
BAC Chairman

(PDI-April 2 & 9, 2006)

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Request for Submission of Grant Applications

The Private Sector Mobilization (PRISM) for Family Planning Project is seeking applications for a grant award intended for

Marketing A Low-Priced Contraceptive Brands in the Philippines RFA 2006-02-03

PRISM is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by Chemonics International Incorporated.

Grant funding of up to 12.5 million pesos will be provided to one successful grant application in accordance with standard USAID policies.

This solicitation is open to Philippine-based and legally registered pharmaceutical companies engaged in the marketing, manufacture or distribution of pharmaceutical products with the infrastructure to achieve national distribution of the contraceptive product/s within six weeks of product launch. Government institutions are not eligible to bid. Specific eligibility requirements are indicated in the Request for Applications (RFA) document.

The solicitation document will be released on Tuesday, April 4, 2006. Applicants interested in getting the full details of this solicitation can request for copies of the full RFA document from grants@prism.org.ph. Likewise, the RFA can be downloaded in PDF format from http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PRISMGrants/. The closing date for the submission of application is 5:00pm, May 15, 2006.

Grant Applicants' Conference will be held at the PRISM office on April 17, 2006 at 2pm. PRISM office is located at 23/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

For further details, please contact Ms. Ces Pangilinan, Senior Grants Manager at email address: grants@prism.org.ph.

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PETRON

Needs

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for

Locations	Required Cash Capital	Deadline for Submission of Application
1. Mc Arthur Highway, Bgy. Kaingin, Bocaue, Bulacan	P4.0M	04/17/06
2. Daet, Camarines, Norte	P5.0M	04/15/06
3. Puerto Princesa, Palawan	P5.0M	04/20/06

Note: Above capital requirement needed for actual station operation; No up-front money is given to Petron.

Only applicants who can meet the following "MUST" requirements need apply:

a. Must be able to put up required capitalization;
b. Must be able to operate and run the station on full time basis;
c. Must not be an existing dealer of any other oil company.

Preference shall be given to applicants residing near the station being applied for. Previous applicants need not apply.

Please secure your application forms from Luzon Reseller, Petron Corporation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila c/o Ms. Rosette P. Sanchez at tel. 563-8521 Loc. 282. Submit application forms not later than the deadline specified for each location.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telefax: 636-65-42
Direct Line 636-65-43
Trunk Line 632-13-61 local 2115
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

DepED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for Supply and Delivery to the DepED Division Offices of the following:

Package No./ Quantity in packs	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)	Venue	End user
1. Fortified Instant Noodles 2,535,336	Php15,212,016.00	April 21, 2006 10:00 A.M.	May 4, 2006 10:00 A.M.	Php4,000.00	Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	Health and Nutrition Center
2. Fortified Biscuits 1,690,224	Php9,887,224.00					
3. Powdered full Cream Choco-Milk 3,200,000	Php24,000,000.00					

Bids received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents in Compact Disc (CD) copy or hard copy shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting April 4, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee in cash indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) Atty. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA
Assistant Secretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI-April 2 & 9, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This public is hereby informed that a Criminal Case for Fourteen (14) counts of QUALIFIED THEFT has been filed against MR. MARVIN B. DANUCO whose picture appears above, docketed as B-02303 to B-02316, and pending before the Regional Trial Court of Bogo, Cebu.

A warrant of arrest has been issued against Mr. Danuco. A reward shall be given to any person who will provide information leading to the successful arrest of Mr. Danuco.

Please contact Mr. Joel T. Go at 032-4184000 local 159, or write to Gillamac's Marketing Inc., 169 Sanciangko St., Cebu City.

Gillamac's Marketing Inc.
Gillamac's
Cebu City

Farmers' cooperative benefit from NFA's programs

THE CRUZIAN MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE, Inc. of Sta. Cruz, Magalang, Pampanga is now utilizing its solar dryer constructed in part through the National Food Authority's Cooperative Development Incentive Fund (CDIF) and Institutionalized Farmers as Distributors (IFAD) programs. Total project cost of the dryer is more than P780,000 where almost P274,000 of which came from said NFA programs. The Cruzian cooperative is Pampanga's most successful farmers' organization. Organized in June 1990 with help from the Department of Agriculture and Land Bank of the Philippines, its primary concern is to provide goods and services to its growing members, encourage thrift and savings mobilization for capital formation and to promote cooperation as a way of life to improve the social well-being of its members. With the introduction of NFA's Palay Marketing Assistance for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) in Pampanga, farmers' organizations such as the Cruzian MPCI will get better palay buying price. The program was created to accommodate requests for a higher palay buying price with additional premium to be provided by the LGU in the area once a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the NFA is signed. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their concerns via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
Basement MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-33-66, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION FOR E-BIDDING

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested Suppliers/Manufacturers to participate in the **e-Bid** for the supply and delivery of various sizes of **BUTTERFLY VALVE** with **Manual Actuator** as listed below, as per MWSI Standard Specification:

No.	Quantity	Description
1	2 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 400mm
2	1 pc	Butterfly Valve, 450mm
3	6 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 500mm
4	1 pc.	Butterfly Valve, 550mm
5	3 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 600mm
6	2 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 600mm
7	4 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 750mm
8	2 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 900mm
9	2 pcs.	Butterfly Valve, 1050mm
10	1 pc.	Butterfly Valve, 1350mm

As part of pre-qualification, all prospective bidders are **required to submit shop drawings and/or brochures showing the detailed description of butterfly valves including all dimensions and material designations** together with other pre-qualification documents as enumerated in the Terms and Conditions, on or before **April 17, 2006** at Purchasing Department.

Interested suppliers may, beginning **April 03, 2006** to **April 07, 2006** obtain further information and secure a complete set of pre-qualification forms, technical specifications and terms and conditions upon payment of **One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00).** The documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City. Telephone Nos. 435-3366/435-3374; Fax No. 928-2303.

The Electronic Bidding, scheduled on **April 27, 2006** will be held at Bayan Trade's Office (24/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City).

(Sgd.) LUIS M.Z. LERMA
Manager, Purchasing Dept.

(PDI – April 2, 2006)

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO BID

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES, a division of the Philippine Tourism Authority is inviting interested buyers to bid on the following unserviceable properties on an **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"**:

ONE (1) LOT UNSERVICEABLE OFFICE/STORE FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT

All interested parties may secure the bidding guidelines and bid form for a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) from April 4 to 6, 2006 from the Administrative Department, Ground Floor, EHA Building, Fiestamall, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City.

Submission of duly accomplished and sealed bid documents will be until April 12, 2006 at 5:00 PM. A pre-bidding conference and site inspection for all qualified bidders will be announced later.

Bidders will be required to post a bid bond equivalent to **ten percent (10%)** of the total bid price in the form of **Cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check.**

Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refused to accept his award. Further, DFP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) JOEL R. PEREZ
Chairman
Disposal Committee

(PDI–April 1 & 2, 2006)

NOTICE

ELMER P. NERI
#34 Nickel St., Filinvest II, Batasan Hills, Q.C.

Warrants of arrest were issued against **ELMER P. NERI** whose picture appears above, under the following cases:

1. Crim. Case 05-1236 (Makati RTC Br. 139)
2. Crim. Case 05- 1237 (Makati RTC Br. 139)
3. Crim. Case 05-1593 (Makati RTC Br. 134)

If you have any information on his whereabouts leading to his arrest, please call Tel. Nos. 812-8242 or Mobile Nos. 0917-8730522 and 0917-8868160.

(PDI–April 2, 2006)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE DEED OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH DONATION INTER VIVOS WAS SETTLED AMONG THE HEIRS OF THE LATE ANTONIO M. CASTILLO AUTHENTICATED PER DOC. NO. 02162 SERVICE NO. 05913 SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE GINES RICARDO GALLAGA VICE CONSUL L.A. C.A. AND AUTHENTICATED PER DOC. NO. 0154 PAGE NO. 88 BOOK NO. 09 SERVICE NO. 438 SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE RAUL S. HERNANDEZ CONSUL VANCOUVER BC CANADA. (PDI-APR. 2,9 & 16, 2006)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice Is Given That the Estate of the late FELIPE D. GIRON JR. Has been Setteled by his heirs under a deed of EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT with Renunciation of Rights as Per Doc 43 Page 9 Book 13 Series of 2006 in the Notarial Registry of ERNESTO MACALINO of Quezon City (PDI Mar. 26 & Apr. 2 & 9 ,2006)

Notice is Herby Given that Certificate No. 1742 for one(1) Proprietary share of the VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB ,INC. issued to AMANDO D. DUMALAO,JR. was Lost.// No Contest Received New Certificate will be issue.(PDI- Apr. 2,9 & 16 , 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSEFINA V. JAVIER was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 402, Page No. 82, Book No. 42, Series of 2006 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Cesar Ching of Marikina City (PDI-April 2, 9 &16, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Lourdes C. Santos was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 181, Page No. 37, Book No. 10, Series of 2005 before Atty. Benigno M. Puno, Notary Public for City of Pasig (PDI-March 9, 26, April 2, 2006)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following persons are no longer connected with **C.F. SHARP CREW MANAGEMENT, INC.**

1.	Ronald J. Austria	Effective 16-Jan-06
2.	Jerry L. Jose	Effective 31-Jan-06
3.	Dolores L. Lim	Effective 03-Feb-06
4.	Bryan D. Calapati	Effective 27-Mar-06

All transactions entered into by the persons stated above for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(For POEA purposes only)

(PDI – April 2, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Esnar A. Gatdula covered by the TCT No. T-34.218(M) was extrajudicially partitioned among his heirs with waiver / donation subscribed before Atty. Rafael B. Madrid a Notary Public in Sta. Maria, Bulacan under Doc. 497, Page 100, Book IV, Series of 2006 (PDI-March 26, April 2, 9, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late Gerardo C. Aguilar has been extrajudicially settled by his heir as per Doc#31, Page#7, Book#1 Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Jane M. Lacandazo.
(PDI - March 26 & April 2 & 9, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Pilipino Telephone Corp. Cert. No. 134881 - 500,000 shares under SELENA SY YAO was declared lost. If no contest received in one year, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-April 2, 9 & 16, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Bookmark Provisional Receipt Booklet with Nos. 40851 to 40900 was lost. Any payment made against the unused receipts nos. 40855, 40856, 40857, 40859 to 40900 shall not be honored by this Company.
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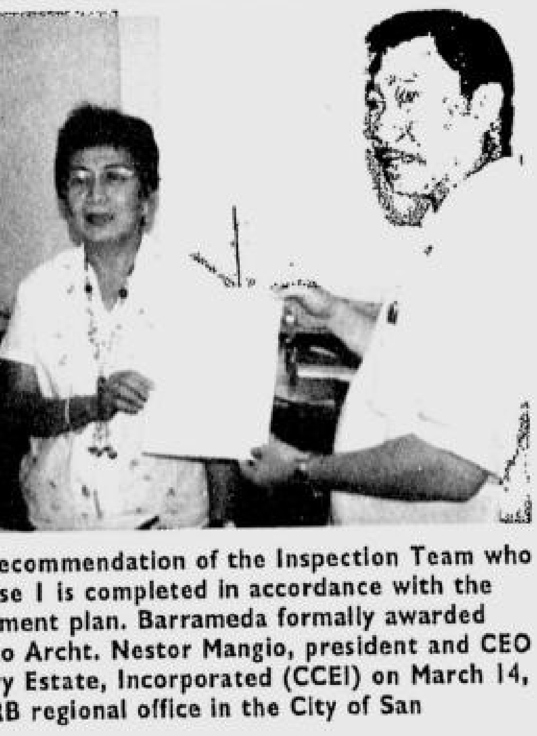
HLURB ISSUES COMPLETION CERTIFICATE TO LAKESHORE



The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) issued a certificate of completion for the first phase of development of The Lakeshore Estate located in Mexico, Pampanga. Regional Director Editha Barrameda signed the certificate upon recommendation of the Inspection Team who declared that phase I is completed in accordance with the approved development plan. Barrameda formally awarded the certification to Archt. Nestor Mangio, president and CEO of Central Country Estate, Incorporated (CCEI) on March 14, 2006 at the HLURB regional office in the City of San Fernando.

OBITUARIES

" A rare and great light has gone out,
but one that has made all others shine brighter."

Cecilia B. Regino

Died in the grace of our Lord
on March 29, 2006 at the age of 58.

She is survived by her husband **Brig. Gen. Rafael R. Regino, the Surgeon General AFP;** her children **Genevieve" Ivy" Regino** and **Regine Danica Regino;** Her parents **Dr. Servando S. De Leon(†)** and **Leonor Guzman De Leon;** her brothers and sisters **Celestina, Johnny** and **Mars, Aurora, Rene, Guia** and **Peter, Lorenzo** and **Isabelita, Roberto(†)** and **Alicia, Teresita** and **Peter, Merced** and **Sixto, Alicia** and **Greg;** together with her nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be at Santolan Catholic Cemetery on Tuesday,
April 04, 2006 at 10:00 in the morning.

LOURDES GARCIA SALVOSA

(July 29, 1944 – March 30, 2006)

Her loving husband **Edgar**; children **Sheila & Nilo, Suzette & Ed, Sonny & Geegee, Jay & Julie, Kit & Mike, SJ & Fhei, Spyke** and **Chips**; grandchildren **Katti, Patti, Donito, Bianca, Nicole, Enzo, CJ, Bea, Krisha, Biboy, Julienne, Xid, Jae** and **Mickey**; Parents, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends mourn her passing away and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on April 4, 2006 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

ENGR. RENATO CALUMA ALARCON

Died in the grace of our lord
on March 31, 2006 at the age of 50.

His bereaved wife **VIN**; children **Shiela, Melanie, Arvin & Regine**; siblings **Baby, Chito & Tess**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Peace Memorial Chapels, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on April 4, 2006 at the Our Lady of Peace Memorial Park after the 2:00 PM Mass.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

Matthew 10:39

CLASSIFIEDS

25th Episcopal Anniversary

THE DIOCESE OF Antipolo is celebrating the 25th Episcopal Anniversary of Most Rev. Gabriel V. Reyes, D. D. at the Assumption College in Antipolo on April 3, 2006.

Bishop Gabby was born in Kalibo, Aklan on August 3, 1941 to the late Cong. Juan M. Reyes and Josefa Villaruz of Roxas City. The youngest of four brothers, Bishop Gabby is the nephew of first Filipino Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes.

At a young age, he joined the Our Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary, took his B. S. Philosophy and B. S. Theology in San Carlos Seminary in 1953 and studied for a year in the Gregorian University in Rome.

On Dec. 21, 1966, HE, Rufino Cardinal Santos ordained him to priesthood. His first assignment was as Secretary to the Cardinal. He later became an Asst. Parish Priest in San Juan then the Parish Priest in Tayuman, Tondo and San Miguel, Manila. Later he became the Asst. Chaplain of Pope Pius XII Center. In 1974 HE Jaime Cardinal Sin took Bishop Gabby as his Secretary. In 1979, he was assigned as parish priest of San Felipe Neri Parish in Mandaluyong until his appointment as Auxilliary Bishop to HE, Cardinal Sin, and Titular Bishop of Selsea on January 20, 1981. From 1981 to 1983 he was the Parish Priest of Sta. Clara Parish and at the same time the District Bishop for Pasay, Paranaque, Las Pinas and Muntinlupa .

He was the Chairman of the Commission on Migration and Tourism of the CBCP from 1983-1995, the first Spiritual Director of the National Service Committee of the Charismatic Renewal in the Philippines, and the Chairman of the Commission of the Lay Apostolate of the CBCP and a member of the Permanent Council of the Charismatic Bishops' Conference from 1996-2000.

From 1993 he was the Bishop of Kalibo until his appointment as Bishop of the Diocese of Antipolo on January 29, 2003.

Bishop Reyes

Bishop Gabby is regarded as a man of deep humility, respect and simplicity. He considers his flock as "living stones" and "living temple of the Spirit".

For the 40 years of serving the Church, catering to the spiritual needs of his flocks in strengthening their faith in God, Bishop Gabriel Reyes lives an authentic Christian life patterned to the life of Mary who gave herself in loving service to all.

BECOMING MVP. The Personnel Management Association of the Phils. (PMAP) Officers and AC Directorate gear up for this year's annual conference. With the theme, "Becoming MVP: Creating new HeRoes", the 43rd PMAP Annual Conference (Sept. 27-29, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ortigas) is set to establish a ground-breaking convergence of brilliant minds and creative learning. Shown are: (seated from left) Ging Igual, PMAP Secretary Badette Cunanan, PMAP President Emerico de Guzman, PMAP Vice President and AC Chair Imee Centeno, PMAP Treasurer Debbie Centeno and 50th Anniversary Chairperson Grace Abella-Zata. (Standing from left) Members of the AC Directorate; Boni Afortunado, Bong Austero, Nanie Geronimo and PMAP Executive Director Gerry Plana. Not in photo is Jesse Rebustillo who is the AC Publications Director in charge. For inquiries, you can call the PMAP Professional Staff at tel. 726-1581/88/32 or email pmap@pmap.org.ph.

People, Events & Products

Target HDL-C levels for Asians set

MERCK INC SPONSORED A SYMPOSIUM on the importance of raising HDL cholesterol in reducing cardiovascular disease risk during the recent joint annual convention of the Philippine Lipid Society and Philippine Society of Hypertension.

Dr. Rody Sy, cardiologist and associate professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, presented the recommendations of the Pan-Asian Consensus Panel, which suggests that the HDL-C target in Asian countries should be at least 40 mg/dL.

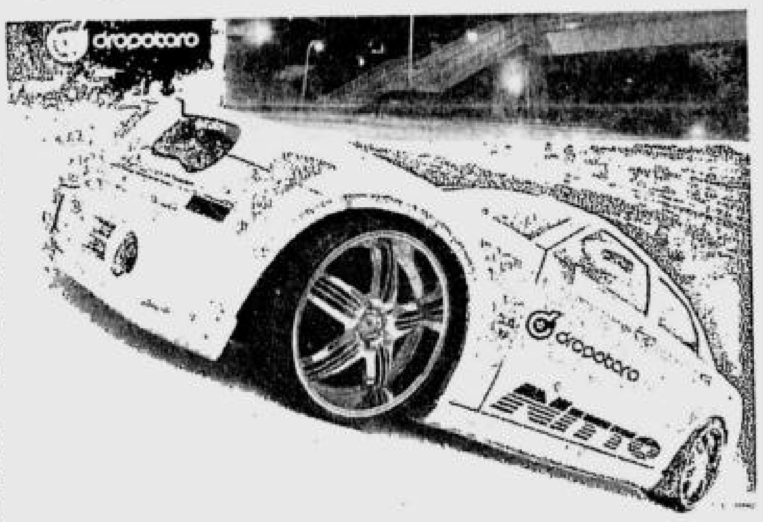
The panel likewise recommends that treatment of low HDL-C should also be considered within the context of global cardiovascular risk management. Low HDL-C has been established as an independent risk factor that can predict the occurrence of future coronary heart disease (CHD). Treatment of low HDL-C is therefore seen as an important step in the prevention of CHD and other cardiovascular diseases.

The Pan-Asian Consensus Panel suggests that nicotinic acid, a medicine for the treatment of low HDL-C, "may prove to be a useful therapeutic intervention, as monotherapy or in combination with a statin, in Asian patients with or at risk of CHD, including those with type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome."

The Pan-Asian Consensus Panel, composed of specialists from 10 countries including the Philippines, was convened to give recommendations on the target level of HDL-C for the Asian population, as well as recommended treatment and management of low HDL-C. Sy, together with Dr. Annette Borromeo from the Philippine Heart Center and Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco from The Medical City, were the country's representatives to the panel.

SHOWN, from left, are Consuelo Javier, product manager, Merck Inc, Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, Dr. Roy Culson, Dr. Rody Sy, and Dr. Annette Borromeo.

The art of tires



THE MANTRA OF ANY tuning enthusiast is having a good set of rim and tire package. It is the most vital aspect in terms of improving your car's appearance and performance.

In a real-world scenario, most consumers buy a set of new tires mainly to replace the worn out set. Other more discerning individuals buy tires for their looks and how they actually perform on road.

Choosing a set of tires should go beyond what looks good on your car. That investment draws the line between performance and safety and having to invest in a wrong set of tires that are ill-fitting, could lead to life threatening results.

Making waves and currently the preferred choice of sport compact enthusiasts and professional drifters in both the United States and Japan for many years is Nitto tires. Nitto made a name for itself due to its super grip, all season performance and good looks.

The Neo Gen features a silica reinforced tread compound which improves tread block rigidity for enhanced wet and dry traction. The tread pattern is an asymmetrical, non- directional design, optimized for balanced performance in both wet and dry road conditions. The inside shoulder and center tread areas have a combination of circumferential and slanted grooves that provide water drainage from the contact patch, equating to an increased level of on-road grip and steering response. The low void-ratio and outside shoulder blocks are designed to provide top level handling and cornering response during normal to high performance driving conditions. "Nitto's aggressive approach to tire designs has won the hearts of those looking for that special tire for their ride. Competitive pricing coupled with tremendous performance has kept Nitto at the forefront of the tuner's market. This is innovative tire technology at its best," says Sammy Liuson of Wheel Gallery, exclusive importers of Nitto tires.

To improve the traction and control of your ride, visit Wheel Gallery at Kartek Center, 318 Santolan Avenue corner M. Paterno, Greenhills, San Juan or call 724-7176/724-2739/726-0965. Log on to www.conceptonewheels.com.

GLOBE, INNOVE PARTNER WITH AMBERGRIS SOLUTIONS

Globe Telecom and Innove Communications have inked an agreement with Ambergris Solutions Philippines, a leading provider of offshore customer care solutions to US-based clients, for GlobeQUEST's domestic and international lease line services and cellular services. Ambergris Solutions is backed by Telus International and Singapore Computer Systems. Sealing the partnership are enterprise business group head Gil B. Genio, Globe president and chief executive officer Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr, Telus International president Eng Boon Lao and Ambergris Solutions Philippines founder and chief executive officer Javier Infante.

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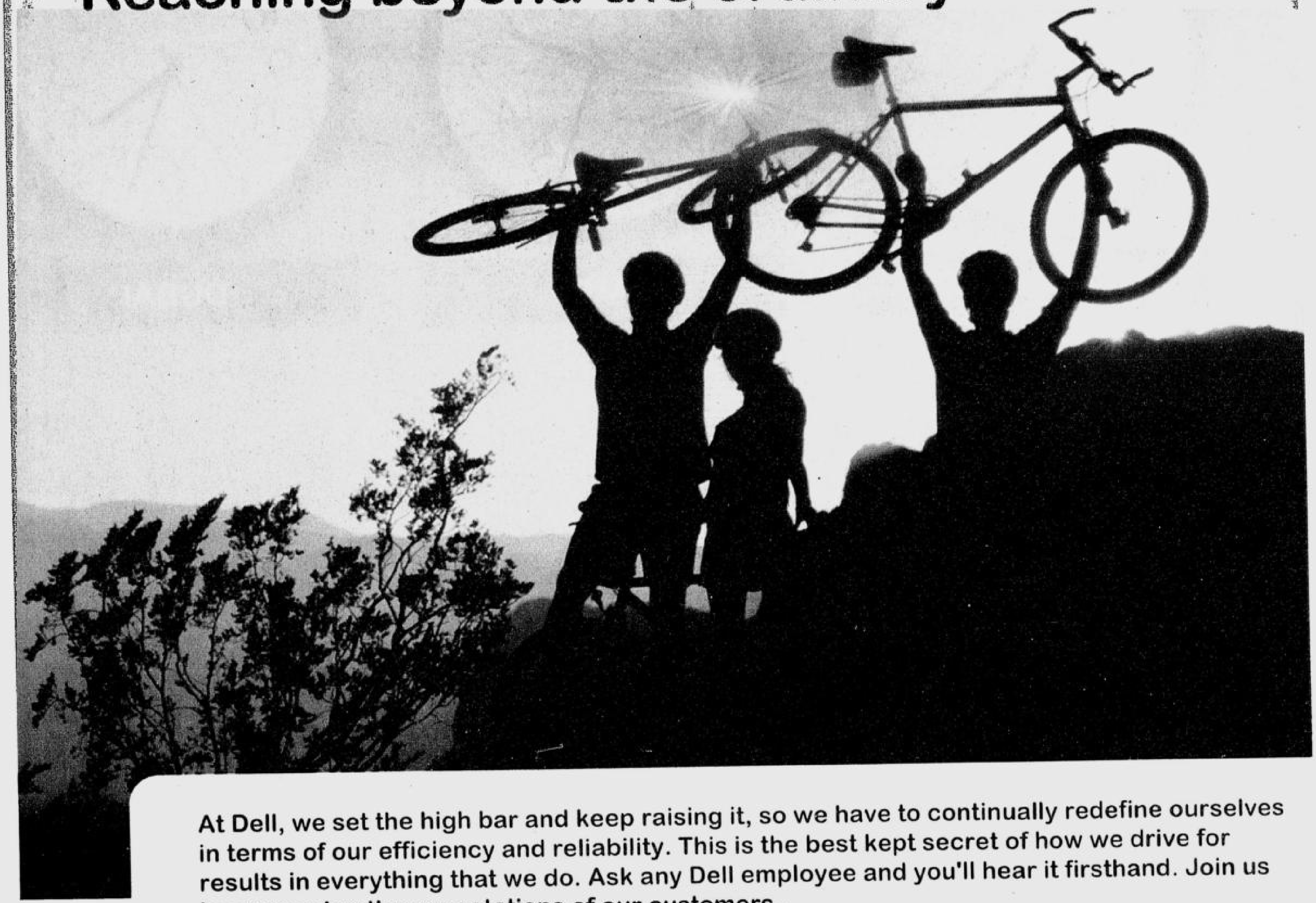

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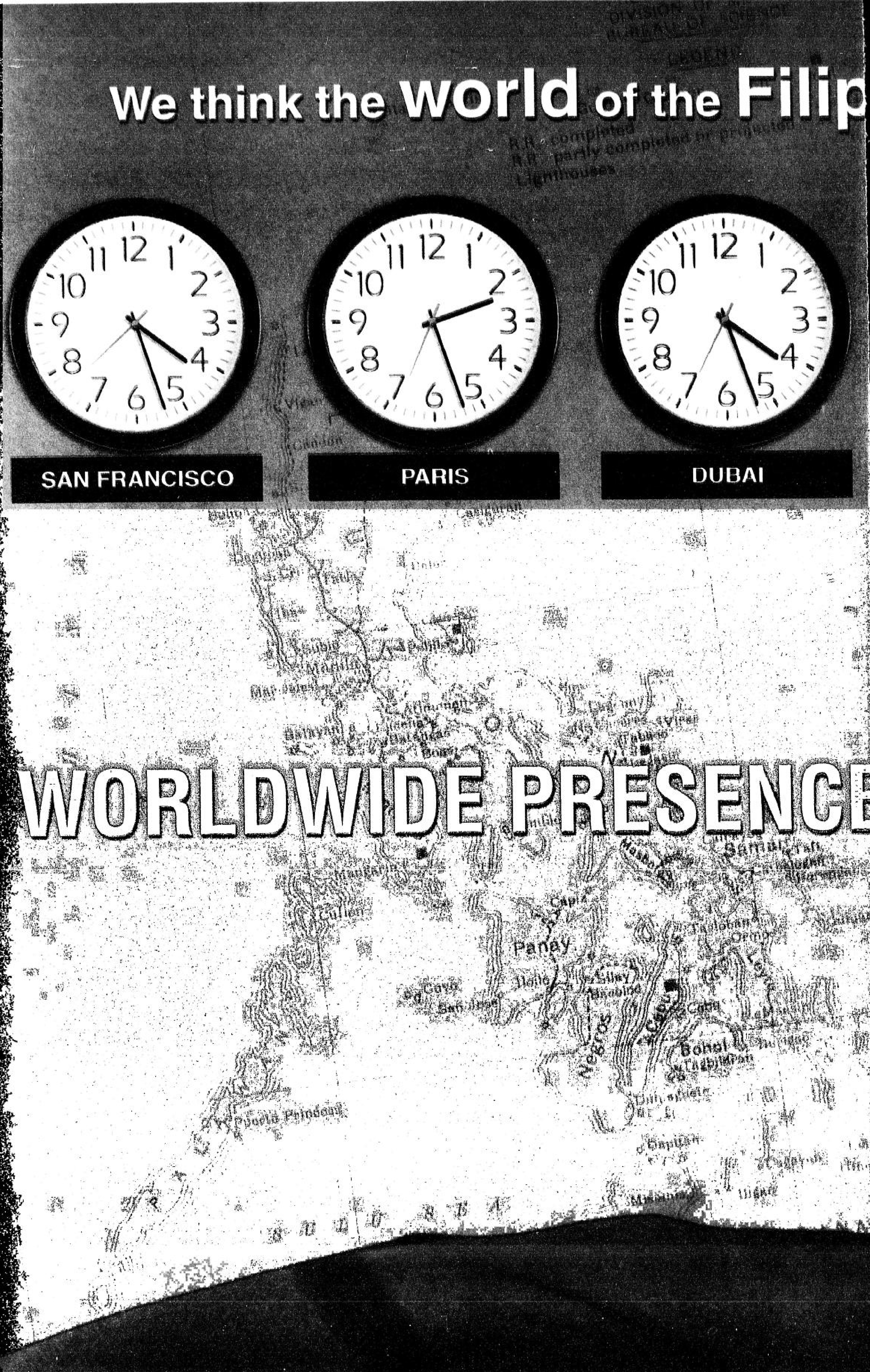
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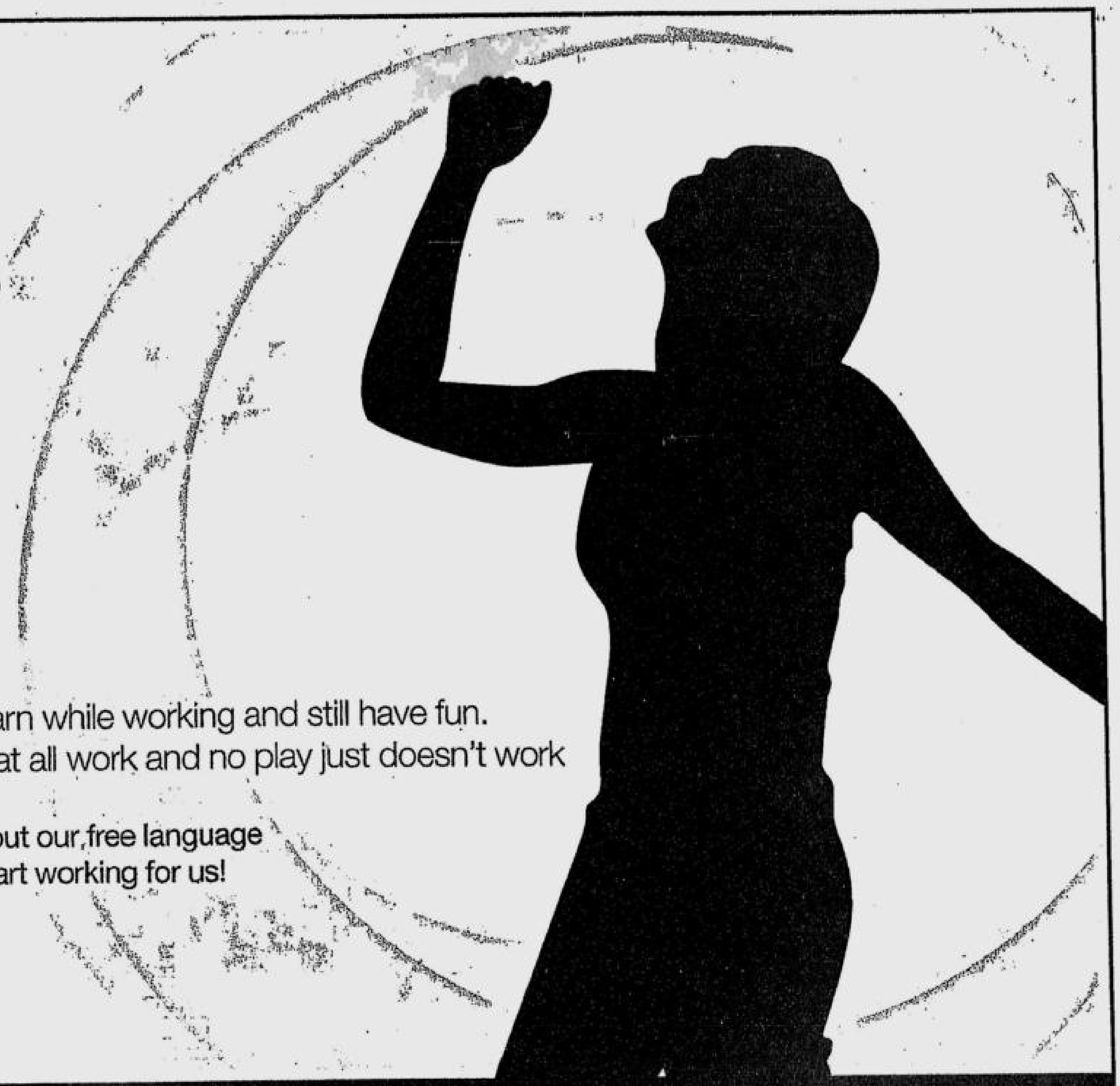

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- Workforce Specialists
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- QA Manager – Six Sigma
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- Assistant Managers - Recruitment
- Manager - Events
- Manager - Communications
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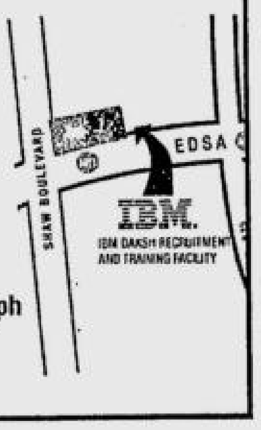

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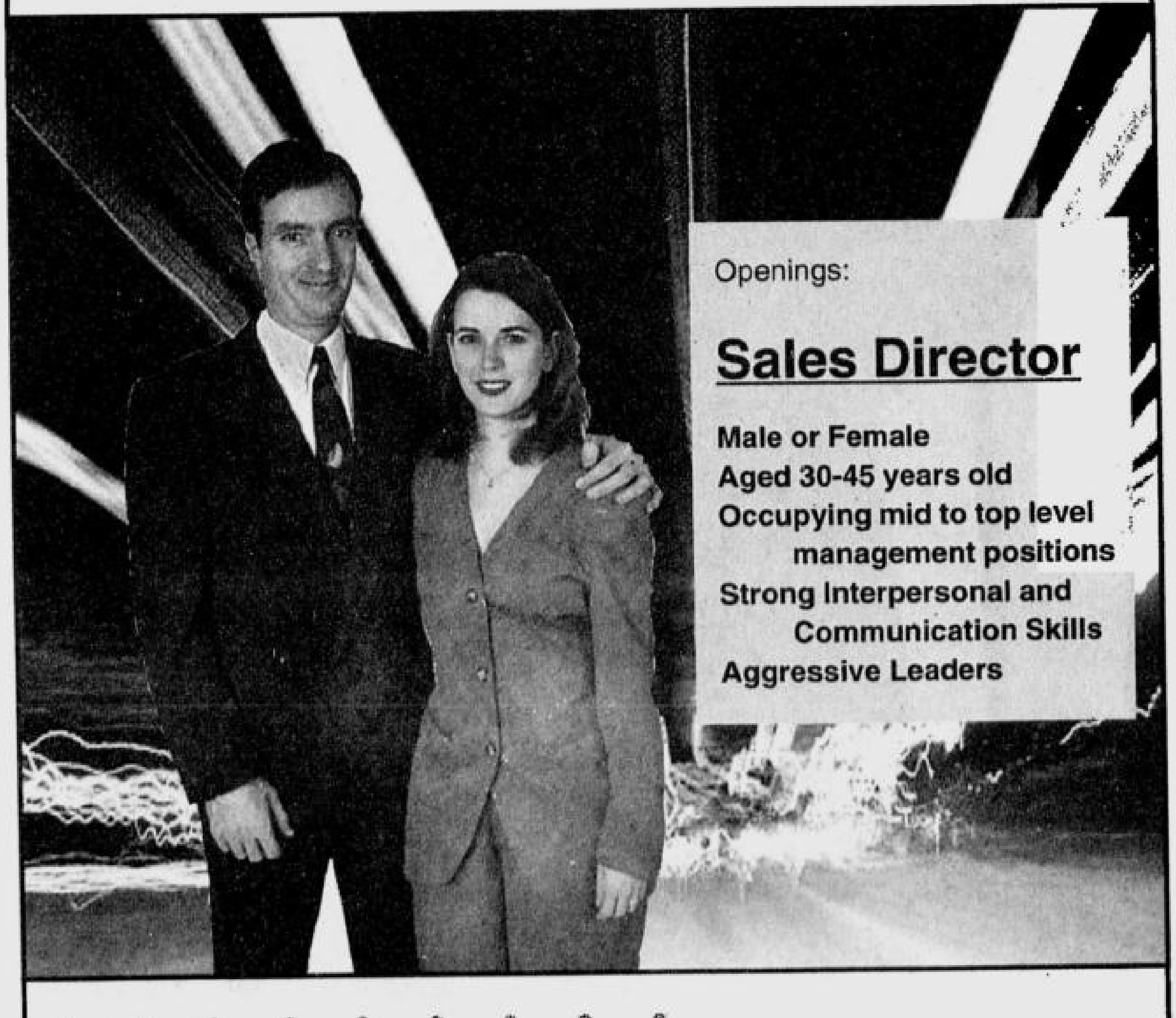

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Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION
FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM) Project
Scope of Work

Senior Grants Manager

Background:

Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM FP) aims to harness private sector motivations and capabilities to increase the share of total need for family planning that is met by the private sector as well as to reduce unmet need for family planning amongst women of reproductive age who have the capacity to pay. Chemonics is the lead organization of a consortium including EngenderHealth, The Manoff Group, EMI Systems, Philippines Business for Social Progress, Institute for Reproductive Health Philippines, Philippines NGO Council on Population Health & Welfare and several organizations in the Philippines.

The Fund Specialist will be responsible for taking the lead role in creating and initiating the subcontracts/ grants program and coordinating all PRISM in FP subcontract/grant-related work.

The following are the Principal Duties and Responsibilities but not limited to:

- Create and oversee overall policies, practices and procedures relating to grants management,
- Create specific procedures relating to grant solicitation and selection, grant awards, grant monitoring and evaluation and grant close-outs.
- Ensure the proper preparation and execution of grant documents and grant disbursements in line with USAID procedures and practices.
- Oversee the first few grant cycles to ensure adherence to established USAID and project policies.
- Ensure proper planning and preparation of synopses, agendas, minutes, memos
- Build results and results frameworks into the grants program.
- Analyze, assess, and assist with budgetary and financial aspects of grant proposals, recipient financial management capacities and needs and disbursement of funds/grants.
- Submit proposals to USAID for approval before awarding grants.
- Ensure that the grant recipient have good appreciation of the terms and conditions of the fund/ grant as well as the clauses which provide guidelines on amendments, suspension, termination, disputes and other standard provisions in the administration and management of the grants.
- Ensure effective liaison between project staff and grant recipients, ensure that recipients are provided with suitable technical advice and assistance.
- Prepare monitoring and evaluation report on a quarterly basis of the outstanding grants to include the problems encountered in the implementation of the grants and the corresponding resolutions.
- Work closely with the Senior Technical Directors, Field Operations Directors and Senior Finance and Administration Manager, USAID, and other team members on all matters relating to grants.
- All other duties that will be assigned by the Project Support Unit Director and the Chief of Party or their designee.

Reporting:

The Sr. Grants Manager will report directly to the Director of Project Support and Administrative Unit or her designee, who will be responsible for monitoring the director's overall performance.

Job Qualifications

- This position will require 10+ years of experience and good understanding of donor organizations' procedural requirements in grant administration and management, preferably USAID funded programs.
- Good project management and administrative skills, preferably with respect to managing grant programs.
- Good analytical ability and knowledge of health organizations in the Philippines.
- An up-to-date understanding and knowledge of political and social conditions in the Philippines.
- Knowledge of approaches suitable for assessing recipient organizations' grant-worthiness, as well as their financial, administrative and program planning capacities.
- Patience, good humor, and an ability to get along well with people in a team, sometimes in demanding and/or busy circumstances.
- Field experience with NGOs, preferably health organizations, preferably in the Philippines, and experience monitoring and evaluating field projects.

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 21st of April 2006. Please indicate the **subject** of your email as **"Position Code: SGM"**.

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- Front Desk Associates
- OD Officer (OD Consulting)
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- Payroll Assistants
- Recruiting Specialists
- Applications Developer
- IT Help Desk Associates
- IT Project Leaders
- Senior Applications Developer
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•Willing to travel and be relocated to provincial territories. (Zamboanga, Dagupan, Lower Cagayan Valley)

•Ideal candidates must possess above average communication skills, must be highly adaptable to a dynamic & fast paced environment, highly customer oriented and driven to achieve targets.

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Please look for Mr. Josel Cruz
jossel512@yahoo.com

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A Makati-based law office is looking for lawyers with at least two (2) years experience in corporate or litigation work. Interested applicants may send their resumés along with a 1x1 photo to:

THE MANAGING PARTNER
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1262 MAKATI CITY

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OPERATIONS MANAGER

Reporting to the General Manager, he will be responsible for directing, supervising, improving and controlling all aspects of the Traffic Department, Warehouse Operations and Vehicle fleet. He will ensure that each customer receives excellent quality services from each of these areas.

- o Male or Female
- o College graduate preferably with MBA;
- o Self starter, independent and strong-willed;
- o Wide array of experience *(preferably in similar capacity)* including facilities management;
- o High level of computer literacy;
- o Team player

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Reporting to the Sales Administration Manager, tasked to solicit accounts for the Household Goods Division. Conduct accurate surveys for outbound shipments & local moves and present the range of services offered by the company during survey presentations. Conduct sales calls on assigned accounts and prospective clients. Coordinate with the Traffic Department on various documentary requirements of clients.

- o Male or Female College graduate;
- o Experienced in Sales, preferably in Moving, Shipping, Freight Forwarding or other service industries;
- o Excellent spoken and written English communication skills
- o Personable and at ease in dealing with expatriates
- o Aggressive, self-motivated and eager to help the company maintain our market leadership.
- o Team Player

Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resume with photo *(before April 12)* by **email** to jane.biene@asiantigers-philippines.com or **post** to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.
ASIAN TIGERS LANE MOVING & STORAGE
N4 JY & Sons Compound, Veterans Complex,
1631 Taguig

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- Female, single not over 30 years old
- With a good command of conversational English & Tagalog
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- Female, single not over 30 years old
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Interested candidates may send resumé with letter of application to:

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79 Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights,
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Please give a telephone contact where we can reach you for interview.

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FOOD TECHNOLOGIST

- BSFT graduate
- With experience in Sales/RD/QA/Prod'n.
- Good communication skills, Computer literate

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NATIVE SPEAKERS (Full - time)

- Between 27–40 years old
- Must be an Australian, American, Canadian and British citizen
- Preferably a holder of Philippine resident visa
- Preferably with bachelor's degree or CELTA/TEFL/TESL certificate
- ESL teaching experience is an advantage
- Must be energetic, outgoing and creative
- Must be a good organizer and positive team member
- Must possess good interpersonal skills

For the applicants who are currently outside the Philippines, please submit a video of your teaching demo to the address specified below.

For the applicants who are currently in the Philippines, please be prepared to present a 1-hour teaching demo to a group of students.

Applicants must submit their **application letter with recent 2x2 picture, resumé, TOR, certificate of employment or recommendation letter, copy of any teaching certificate** to:

THE PERSONNEL OFFICER
Cebu Pacific International Language Services
Benedicto Bldg. (formerly Harbor View Hotel)
M.J. Cuenco Avenue, Cebu City, Philippines 6000

or you can send your applications through our e-mail address:
cpils_hrd@yahoo.com.ph / cpils_cebu@hotmail.com

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Computer Literate

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Interested applicants may either submit their resume with 2x2 photo to Unit 9 Starmall Complex, Shaw Blvd. cor EDSA, Mandaluyong City Tel# 7249715 / 7226655 (or) E-mail to minci@email.com.ph / mincijl@yahoo.com

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Bellnet is a software development company based in Japan. For over 8 years, the company has been providing services ranging from business application development to creation of various digital contents.

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Software Engineer/Programmer

- Must possess a University degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or similar discipline.
- At least 3 years working knowledge in any of the following programming languages: C, C++, VC++, VB, VB.NET, ASP.NET or Java. (for the SE position)
- FRESH GRADUATES/Entry level applicants are encouraged to apply (for the Programmer position)
- Excellent team-work and inter-personal abilities.
- Excellent communication skills in English.
- Japanese skill desirable.

◆ Job location is either Manila or Cebu.
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- Single, Female not over 27 years old
- College graduate of any 4-yr business course
- Can speak and understand Japanese language
- Smart and has pleasing personality
- Flexible, can coordinate well with different dept. in the organization

Please submit or send your comprehensive resume with recent photo to the following address not later than April 22, 2006:

HUMAN RESOURCES SECTION
SCOPRO OPTICAL CO., INC.
Boncraft Building, Mayon corner Pinatubo Streets
Mandaluyong City

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REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduate of 2 to 4 year college program
- Undergraduates with minimum of two (2) years college education
- Proficiency in communicating in English, verbal and written
- Computer literate with good typing speed and accuracy
- High analytical ability
- Flexible and can work with minimal supervision
- Willing to work in shifting schedule or permanent night shift
- Willing to work in Alabang area

TO APPLY: (From April 3 to 7, 2006)
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Alabang, Muntinlupa
Email: recruitment@amdatex.com

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Please bring the following:

- Resume
- Two (2) passport size photos
- Valid identification card with photo

ADEC
Solutions

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION
FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Private Sector Mobilization in Family Planning (PRISM) Project
Scope of Work

Grants Officer

Background:

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), is a five-year project funded by USAID which seeks to motivate and build the capacity of the private sector to market, sell and distribute competitive family planning products and services. PRISM intends to accomplish its performance objectives by establishing partnerships with business associations, private sector medical practitioners and midwives, and pharmaceutical companies.

The implementation of PRISM is being led by a consortium led by Chemonics International Incorporated. Under its contract, Chemonics will provide technical assistance needed to meet the performance objectives of PRISM and facilitate the release and management of grants and subcontracts.

Because of the anticipated volume of contracts to be managed under the project, Chemonics is engaging the services of a Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is expected to participate in specific steps in the grant-making process, namely: pre-solicitation, solicitation, review and selection, pre-award, award and post-award stages.

Pre-Solicitation

1. Assist in updating and maintaining the list of associations, business organizations and other non-government organizations which are potential recipient/s of grant solicitations;
2. Assist in organizing and in the actual conduct of pre-award orientations, proposal write shops, etc.; Assistance includes documenting the proceedings and/or writing the minutes;
3. Assist in the preparation of requests for applications (RFAs) and/or Annual Program Statements (APS).

Solicitation

1. Assist in the issuance of RFAs e.g. preparation of newspaper ads, preparation of letters to partners announcing the solicitation, etc.;
2. Assist in following up submission of applications; and,
3. Maintain files of all solicitations and applications received (PRISM grant files).

Review and Selection

1. Check for the completeness of submitted proposals and applications;
2. Assist in organizing meetings of Selection Committee which will evaluate applications for grant awards; and,
3. Prepares minutes of selection committee meetings.

Award Stage

1. Prepare notification letters for grant recipients;
2. Assist in the preparation of the grant agreements.

Implementation Stage

1. Maintain all grant files;
2. Assist in monitoring compliance of grantees to their contract terms and in following up submission of required periodic reports from grantees;
3. Review the completeness and accuracy of documents submitted to facilitate payment orders or requests;
4. Update and maintain grants database.

Closeout

1. Follow up preparation and submission of terminal reports or deliverables;
2. Prepare grant completion certificates.

Reporting:

The Grants Officer will report directly to Grants Manager

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- Minimum of 3 years experience in administering grants or subcontracts under USAID funding
- Knowledge of USAID procurement procedures
- Very skilled in various computer applications
- Good command in written and spoken English
- Has a keen eye for details

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 21st of April 2006. Please indicate the subject of your email as "Position Code: GO".

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THE WORLD BANK OFFICE MANILA
Requires a

OPERATIONS OFFICER (LOANS)

The Portfolio Team in the World Bank Office Manila is responsible for monitoring ongoing World Bank assistance programs in the Philippines, enhancing the quality of ongoing and proposed development activities, and helping to ensure their alignment with the Bank's Country Assistance Strategy. The team supports the Country Management Unit of the Philippines, and maintains strong relationships internally with World Bank sector teams responsible for preparing and implementing development activities, and externally with government agencies, other national stakeholders and international development partners.

The World Bank is seeking an **Operations Officer (Loans)** as a key member of this team, which also includes an Operations Officer (Trust Funds) and a Program Assistant, reporting to the Manager, Portfolio & Operations. The position is for a two-year term basis, subject to one year probationary period, with possibility of renewal. The selected candidate would have primary responsibility for:

I. Portfolio Monitoring and Reporting

- monitor portfolio performance through World Bank information databases, project team reports, & follow up with sector teams;
- prepare Monthly Monitoring Reports, including inputs from other teams as required;
- provide timely portfolio information, including inputs to midyear reviews and other major reports as required;
- prepare briefs, updates and presentations related to the ongoing portfolio for management or external reporting as needed;
- conduct analyses and independent reviews of specialized topics as requested.

II. Portfolio Management

- review project team reports for key status information;
- prepare & manage the process of twice-yearly portfolio reviews, including assembling relevant project assessments, highlighting issues for discussion with task teams and implementing agencies, arranging meetings with implementing and oversight agencies, and drafting the final portfolio review report;
- assess achievement of Country Assistance Strategy result targets for the loan portfolio based on portfolio review information.

III. Quality enhancement

- maintain and implement quality assurance arrangements for all loan portfolio letters and other documents requiring Country Director signature;
- as required, review and provide comments on key project documents during preparation, implementation and completion;
- keep informed on Bank operational policies & provide support to task teams on operational instruments, policies & procedures;
- organize knowledge sharing activities on operational quality issues and best practices;
- undertake and support initiatives to scale up the team's simplification, quality and results agenda.

IV. Client Relationships

- maintain close working relationships with Bank task teams both in the Manila office and in headquarters;
- maintain close working relationships and arrange regular meetings with key counterparts in the government oversight and implementing agencies;
- coordinate Bank support of external client access to the Client Connection Web Portal.

The candidate would also contribute substantively to activities which are joint responsibilities of the portfolio team and others, such as: managing for results, harmonization, partnerships, simplification, and support for the Country Assistance Strategy, Philippines Development Forum Working Groups, and anti-corruption activities.

Selection Criteria:

- Advanced degree in relevant discipline such as economics, finance, accounting or business administration w/ strong quantitative skills;
- Minimum of seven (7) years professional experience including a minimum of three (3) years in development work;
- Experience with foreign assisted projects in the Philippines;
- Experience with the use of consultants in development activities will be a major advantage;
- Strong hands-on experience in project management;
- Good understanding of the World Bank's mission, policies & business practices; familiarity with the World Bank's lending procedures and operational policies would be an advantage;
- Strong analytical and problem solving skills and proven attention to details essential;
- Flexibility to respond to changing priorities and work demands, and ability to produce quality work under tight deadlines;
- Strong interpersonal skills -- ability to deal with people at all levels, coupled with a strong client orientation;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, and the ability to communicate effectively with clients;
- Strong computer skills and high level of proficiency in use of relevant software applications, including Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Web search tools.

The World Bank offers a competitive compensation package based on the local market, and attractive medical and pension plans

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than April 17, 2006. **Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.** Send the above to:

The Human Resource Officer
Box 100
c/o Classified Ads, Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Building B, SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

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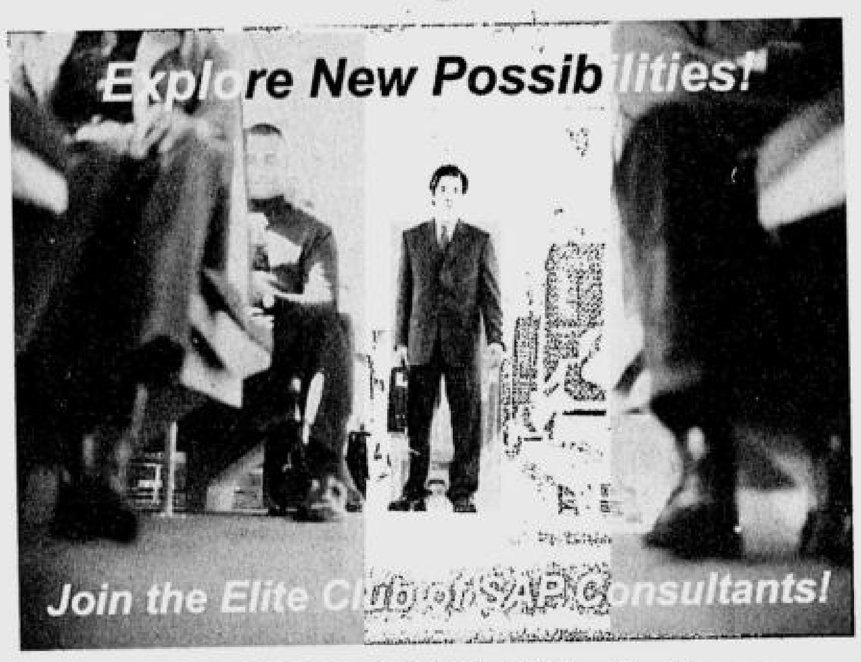
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(not later than April 7, 2006)

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Email: marketing@kaisaconsulting.com
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kaisa consulting

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Graphic Artist:

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Net Graphics
IT Services

ALL APPLICANTS MUST POSSESS AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S/COLLEGE DEGREE IN ANY FIELD AND BE WILLING TO WORK IN MAKATI CITY.

Submit your resume/curriculum vitae at: jobs@24i.ph

To know more about 24i, visit our website: *www.24i.ph*

24i.ph - Chatham House - 116 Valero street, corner Rufino, Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati

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STRUCTURAL / MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- Must have a minimum 5 years experience on Structural Design or Mechanical Design work with a full knowledge in Auto Cad application
- Previous experience in material handling equipment/cranes is an advantage.
- Must be able to work with minimum supervision
- Experience on resolving technical problems during manufacturing

Interested applicants may send comprehensive resumé to:

ELECTRUCK PACIFIC, INC.
Bldg. 3 Rivera Pt., SRF Compound,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone 2222
Tel. No. 047-252-6332/34/36
Email: episubic@info.com.ph

Your World Of Opportunity

The global leader in market research, information and analysis invites you to join its organization as

Database Administrator

Responsibilities:

- Database Management & Data Extraction for Special Projects
- Implementation of Back-up/ Recovery Procedures
- Testing & evaluation of production software and coordination with the software support
- Installation and training of software packages
- Provide solutions/technical guidance/advice on production systems problems

Requirements:

- Degree holder in Computer Science, Information Technology or other related discipline.
- At least 1-3 years IT working experience
- Proficient in Oracle and Access
- Proficient in both oral and written communications

Send your resume, transcript of records and most recent photo to:
ACNielsen (Philippines), Inc., Human Resources Department
15th Floor, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 727-3701 to 20 / Fax No. 726-1416
or e-mail to: faye.bonoan@acnielsen.com.ph

People > Innovation > Insight

ACNielsen

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

- 2 females with Travel Agency experience in Sales and Reservation
- Must be computer literate and fluent in English
- Must be a graduate of Tourism, Management or Accounting
- Must possess a pleasing personality and willing to work mall hours

SUBMIT YOUR BIODATA WITH LATEST PHOTO AND REFERENCES TO:

DELMAR TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.
5th Floor, Market! Market! Bonifacio Global City
Taguig (new address after April 24, 2006)
Tel # (02) 8433343 & CEL# 0920-9540313
1975 A. Mabini Street, Malate, Manila
(Before April 24, 2006)
Tel# (02) 5224282/250135 Fax# 5216521
Email: manlou_ordoñez2000@yahoo.com

CCC CONTACT CONSULTING CORPORATION
Consulting·Franchising·Outsourcing

URGENTLY NEEDED

SALES & MARKETING OFFICERS (3)

Our client is one of the leading floral design company in the country. They offer above average **compensation package, excellent training, career advancement, stability, and growth.** They are seeking suitably qualified and career-minded individuals that are:

- Male/Female, single 21-30 years old, College graduate.
- With 2 years experience in Sales and Account Management.
- Preferably graduate of **Interior Design, Mass Communication, Fine Arts, Architecture or any course related to Arts.**
- Articulate with pleasing personality and has managerial skills.
- Must be willing to work long hours.
- **Fresh graduates from UP, La Salle, Ateneo, UST and other exclusive schools are also welcome to apply.**

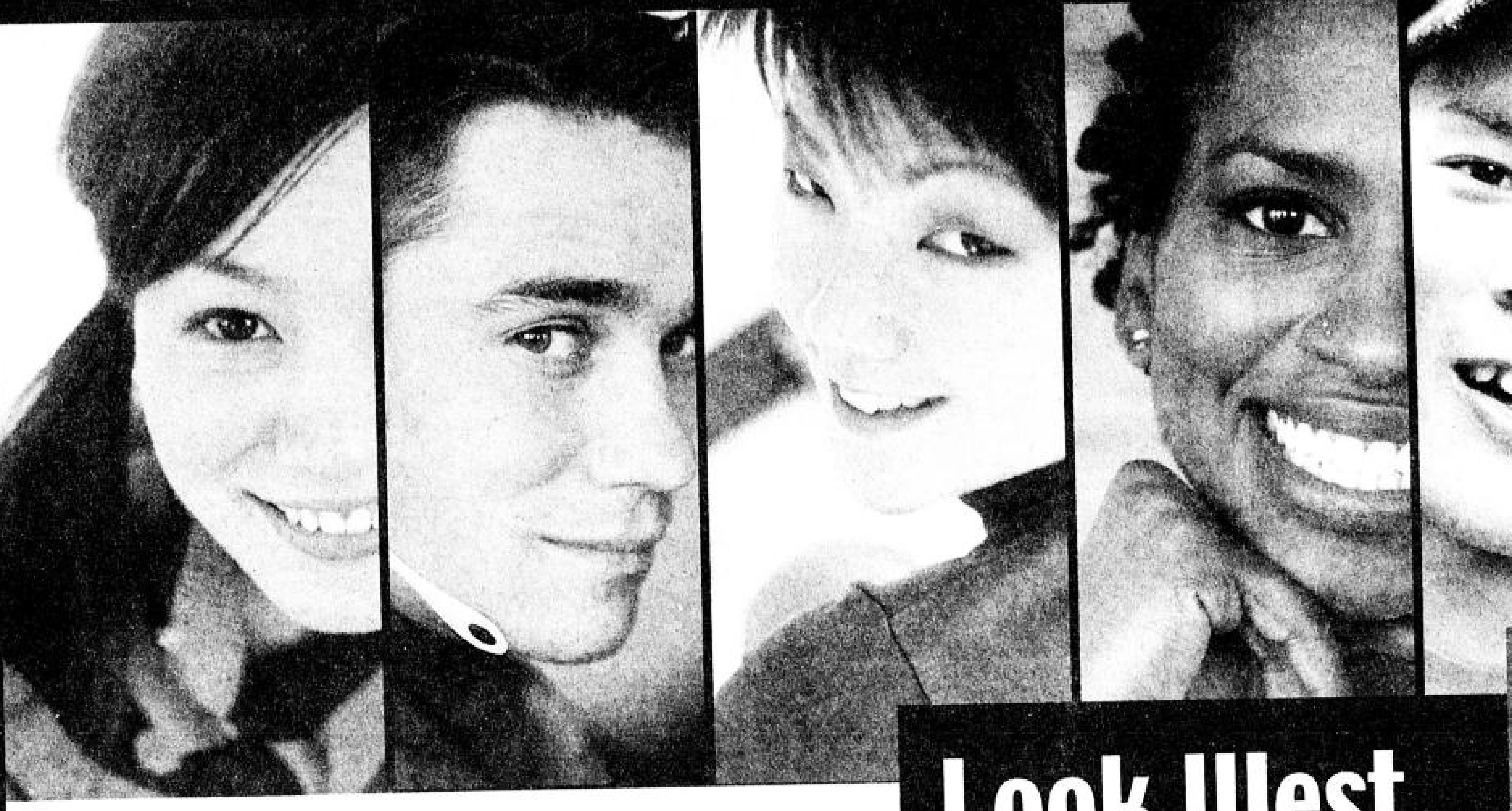
Those earning less than 20,000 a month need not apply.

Applicants are required to apply in person at **Suite 1602 CITYLAND 10, TOWER 1, H.V. De La Costa St., Makati City on April 3, 4 & 5 (Mon., Tue. & Thur.) from 1-5 pm only and bring resumé with picture, copy of transcript and certificates. For inquiry, call 751-6730.**

visit us at: www.jobmarketonline.com

BOE

Graduates, Looking for a Great Career?



Look West

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West offers:

- **Guaranteed base wage increases every six months for agent positions!**
- Flexible work schedules
- Competitive pay
- Career path opportunities
- Located near public transportation
- Buddy System Philosophy. Grab a friend/roommate and apply together so you can work together.
- Casual, fun working environment

Get connected to a global organization with a career at West Contact Services, Inc. We are a subsidiary of US-based West Corporation with several contact centers located throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

Agent Opportunities:

- **Technical Support Representatives**
- **Customer Service Representatives**
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Apply Now:

West Contact Services, Inc.
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Don Chino Roces cor Sen.
Gil Puyat, Makati

Phone: 857-7400
Fax: 857-7431/32
Email: MakatiJobs@west.com

Apply from home today! westemployment.com

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

• COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

- Graduate of Computer Science or IT
- Male, not more than 28 years old
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Knowledgeable in the following:
  1. Visual Basic 6.0
  2. MySQL, MS Access, SQL
  3. Linux (whatever distribution)
  4. Hardware (trouble shooting)
  5. Networking

• ASSISTANT MECHANIC

- Vocational Course with Hydraulic System background
- With at least 2 yrs. Experience
- With experience in automotive electrical wiring
- Experience in heavy equipment is an advantage
- Willing to be trained

• CLAIMS OFFICER

- Male, 24-30 yrs. old
- Experience in cargo operations.
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have knowledge in investigation process
- Can deal with different levels of people

• CHIEF ENGINEERS

REQUIREMENTS .

- Seaman's book
- COC or QDC Cert.
- NBI Clearance
- Cert. of Service from previous employers
- PRC License
- BSC with PSSR
- 1 x 1 ID Pictures

All qualified applicants may apply personally with comprehensive Resume/Bio-data and credentials at:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
SOLID SHIPPING LINES CORPORATION
Pier 8, North Harbor, Tondo, Manila
TEL.# 245 – 0585 To 87

De La Salle University
Manila

Graphics Designer

The Center for Educational Multimedia of De La Salle University-Manila is conducting a search for a Graphics Designer to handle the design requirements for its multimedia projects and computer-based training programs.

The applicant should have adequate industry design experience in interactive multimedia, Internet-based programs and applications, and should have a Fine Arts background. Applicant should possess strong background on the following software/design tools; Adobe Photoshop, Adobe After Effects, Adobe Premier, Freehand, Illustrator, Corel Draw, 3-D Studio Max, Flash, and Dreamweaver. The applicant must be creative, dynamic, and hard-working. The applicant will also conduct training to adult learners on the use of Adobe Photoshop and other graphics design-related software. Salary is competitive and based on one's years of experience.

Interested applicants should submit an application letter, resumé, transcript of records, 2 recommendation letters, and 2 identical 2" x 2" colored pictures not later than **April 07, 2006.** Applicants may send the required documents via email at eulinj@dlsu.edu.ph or via mail and address it to:

Dr. Miguel Q. Rapatan
Center for Educational Multimedia
2401 Taft Ave., Manila. Interested parties may call
524-4611 loc. 563 to verify receipt of application.

Our company is an international power generation firm. It has projects in advanced development, under construction or operating in most parts of the world. We offer compensation package that is competitive in the energy industry. Currently, we are looking for a qualified candidate to assume the following position:

Accounting Supervisor

(NCR-Pasig City)

Minimum Qualifications:

Education: Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
CPA holder

Responsibilities:

- Financial (US GAAP) and International Accounting Standards) and Statutory Reporting
- Preparation/Review of Management Reports and other reportorial requirements of the BOI, SEC, project lenders and other stakeholders
- Preparation/Review of accounts analyses including implementation of new accounting standards
- Cash Management
- Coordination with Head Office and project owners as needed
- Other duties that may be assigned

Work experience:

Minimum of 3-4 years post qualification experience
Minimum of 2-3 years work experience in big accounting firms an advantage

Skills:

- Industry-related experience preferred
- Solid background in taxation, financial accounting systems and controls
- US GAAP reporting experience an advantage
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Flexible and responsive to multiple job demands
- Excellent team player and strong interpersonal skills with all levels of organization
- Good organizational skills
- Proficient in Microsoft software; knowledge of JD Edwards is a strong plus

Desired Attributes:

The successful candidate needs to be a hardworking, dependable, self-motivated, analytical and detail-oriented individual with good interpersonal skills. An excellent team player is a must.

Successful candidate can look forward to a career growth supported by training and seminars.

Please send a comprehensive resumé detailing work experience and educational attainment to:

The HR Department
Email address: rgorayeb@intergen.com

CJH
Development
Corporation
CAMP JOHN HAY

The developer of Camp John Hay, Baguio City's premier forest-tourism resort, announces the following:

JOB OPENING

PR and MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER

(Manila Office)

Minimum Qualifications: Male/Female, Single, Graduate of Communication, Journalism, or related course, at least 2 years experience in any related field, Proficient in both English and Tagalog (both Verbal and Written), Proficient in copywriting, publication, editing and photo composition, Proficient in MS Windows application, and detail-oriented.

For Interested applicants, submit the following requirements with a Letter of Application to the Human Resource Department, Camp John Hay Development Corp., 5/F Renaissance Tower, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City not later than **07 April 2006**: Comprehensive Resumé with at least one contact number, 2x2 ID Picture, SSS Number, Tax Identification Number and Certificate/s of Employment. Look for **Regina Q. Culzon** or e-mail your requirements to

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PETBOWE CHEMTRADE CORP.

We are an ISO Certified Organization and one of the major players in the marketing of chemical raw materials for more than 20 years. If you can speak with candor, take risks and keep agreements, we invite you to be part of our robust organization. We have an immediate opening for the following positions:

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Female, 26-35 years old, CPA, minimum 3 years experience
- With hands-on experience in any of the following: Platinum, ACCPAC, PeachTree and SAP R/3
- Can analyze and interpret accounting records and prepare financial reports

PURCHASING MANAGER

- Female, 28-35 years old, four-year course graduate
- Minimum of 5 years working experience
- Preferably knowledgeable in the importation of raw materials

SALES SUPERVISORS

- Male/Female, 26-35 years old, graduates of any Eng'g. course, FoodTech, Chemistry or equivalent with minimum of 3 years professionals experience in corporate selling
- Background in marketing of chemical raw materials for food/personal care/home care/soaps and detergents is an advantage
- This is a senior level position but will not be tasked to handle people

FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS

- Male/Female, 26-35 years old
- Minimum of 5 years working experience in R&D or Production

Please mail/e-mail or fax your application letter and comprehensive resumé with 2x2 ID photo attention to HR Manager:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Rm. 438 4th Floor Calvo Bldg Escolta St., Binondo Manila 1006
(In front of City College of Manila)
E-mail: hr@petbowe.com.ph
Tel. No. 2414546 • Fax No. 2414748

Spectral
Technologies

We are engaged in software development and cater to a growing group of Filipino and foreign companies, we now require JUNIOR PROGRAMMER WHO ARE:

- Male, below 28 years of age
- Graduate in BS Math, BS Computer Science or related course
- Working knowledge in Microsoft Access and/or Visual Basic is a major requirement
- Fluent in English
- Keen to learn more and grow in a "high tech" company

Our Benefit Package includes:

- Commissions from sales
- Overseas travel to customers

Interested applicants may send their **resumé with picture** together with their **application letter**, in MS Word, PDF or Text format to:

E-mail : spectral@spectralasia.com
Fax : 521-6779

Kindly indicate APPLICANT as subject

CBI (PHILIPPINES) INC. is a multinational company engaged in specialty engineering, procurement and construction projects. We currently have vacancies for the following positions:

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR - CBIEA

Qualified applicants will provide assistance in problem resolution ie. user guidance and first level support. Act as key contact for on-site and remote users for PC/Server, production problems and inquiries.

- BS or BA degree in Computer Science, Business Administration or equivalent computer related course Minimum 1-2 years work experience in Microsoft Windows Environment and customer service
- Knowledgeable in all enterprise hardware and software
- Preferably Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer or equivalent

ENGINEERS - ACBI

- Male, BS Mechanical/ Civil Engineer or equivalent, preferably licensed
- Must have (2) years experience and strong exposure to project site environment. Specifically in oil/gas industries involving industrial, piping, metallurgy and mechanical construction.
- Computer literate with good command of English communication
- Willing to travel in different jobsites

General Qualifications for the (3) positions below:

- Minimum five (5) years industrial experience using both theoretical and practical application. Credentials must be in accordance to his field of expertise
- Strong exposure to project site environment.
- Physically healthy and able to work on heights.
- Willing to travel in different jobsites

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (1) - ACBI

- Prefer PLC (Programmable Logic Control) and defective PCB (Printed Circuit Board) trouble shooting and repair experience.
- Competent knowledge in motor controls, relays, timers and industrial electrical works.

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN (1) - ACBI

- Ability to trouble shoot and repair machineries and automotive electrical circuitry such as : overhead powered hoist crane, hydraulic presses, rolling and bending machines, forklifts, mobile cranes, tractors and generators.
- Prefer hands-on experience in installation, maintenance and repair of electrical wiring, and equipment (motor control, wiring and panel termination, relays, solenoids, timers, frequency converters, etc.)

HEAVY DUTY MECHANIC (1) - ACBI

- Ability to trouble shoot, repair and overhaul automotive engines, diesel drive compressor, generators and hydraulic system
- Prefer hands-on experience in trouble shooting and repair of industrial machineries such as: powered hoist crane, hydraulic presses, rolling and bending machines.

Interested parties can hand carry or send their curriculum vitae, one piece 2x2 photo, school credentials and employment certificates to :

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
CBI (PHILIPPINES) INC.
20th Floor Equitable Bank Tower
8751 Paseo de Roxas Avenue, 1226 Makati City
Tel No. (02) 886 0211

or send email to : rlavier@CBI.com
(Note : Please indicate on the subject line position applied)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Bids & Awards Committee

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WB-IBRD) towards the cost of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payment of professional services under this Contract. The Department of Social Welfare and Development which is the lead implementing agency for Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS) of the government in fighting poverty now invites Individual Proponent/s for the hiring of Knowledge Development and Information Specialist.

The Knowledge Development and Information Specialist shall:

01. Develop a knowledge management framework of the KALAHI-CIDSS Project including, but not limited to:
    a. Consult with key players of the Project, internally and externally.
    b. Identify knowledge and information needs of the key players, especially stakeholders at the national level.
    c. Scan the social environment for trends and best practices in knowledge management in development projects.
    d. Develop the knowledge development framework.
02. Develop an operational plan to manage the knowledge and information generated by the KALAHI-CIDSS Project including, but not limited to:
    a. Review the framework vis-à-vis existing work structure in the KALAHI-CIDSS Project.
    b. Recommend strategic adjustments in the operation to take into account knowledge development agenda.
    c. Draw up operational plan that will better manage the Project's generation and effective use of knowledge. The plan should also address knowledge and information needs of key stakeholders.
03. Implement the knowledge management operational plan including, but not limited to:
    a. Develop and produce knowledge products.
    b. Develop, in coordination with the Social Marketing Officer, information collaterals.
    c. Strategically disseminate knowledge products and information collaterals.
    d. Maximize use of project databases by both internal and external users.
    e. Maximize use of information Technology for free flow of information internally and externally.
    f. Enhance the KALAHI-CIDSS Project Information and Monitoring System.
    g. Continuously build the Project's knowledge database and contribute to the existing knowledge base on Community Driven Development, Poverty Alleviation and other related fields/themes.
04. Proactively contribute to the overall-development of KALAHI-CIDSS Project through participation in meetings, consultations, reviews, and other activities of the Project and the Department.
05. Perform other tasks as assigned by the National Project manager.

Individuals that have the following qualifications may submit Expression of Interest:

01. Master's degree or equivalent in international relations, social science, public administration, or related field.
02. Formal training or practical experience in the use of information technology.
03. Minimum of three years progressively responsible knowledge management experience.
04. Excellent interpersonal skills, strong social research and analytical skills, excellent English language and writing skills.
05. Communication and advocacy experience as well as strong presentation skills.
06. Knowledgeable about foreign-assisted development projects. At least two years experience in development projects.
07. Proactive and rigorous approach to problem solving and professional responsibilities.
08. Demonstrated ability to work independently as well as cooperatively in an organization.
09. Highly organized, efficient, reliable, discrete, supportive, and flexible in a high stress, multi-task environment.
10. Proficient with personal computers and appropriate software including, but not limited to, Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Project.

Interested Applicants may submit a written Expression of Interest, Application Letter and Comprehensive Resume to the Bids & Awards Committee Secretariat at 2nd floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone number 951-71-18 or at e-mail address bacsec@dswd.gov.ph and dswdbacsec@yahoo.com until April 7, 2006 at 5:00 PM.

(SGD) FLORITA R. VILLAR
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, BAC

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

For a Christian School

1. Fluency in oral & written communication in CHINESE, ENGLISH and FILIPINO
2. Master's degree in Education or related course
3. At least 5 years of relevant experience.

Attractive Salary and other Benefits

Please send Resumé to:

The Administrator
P.O. Box 3423
MCC, Makati

SM

If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder

Merchandise Manager

The ideal candidate will develop and plan merchandise assortments; implement and monitor visual merchandising standards; develop and manage suppliers; manage monthly OTB (Open-To-Buy), sales and gross margin; develop advertising and sales promotional plans.

- male or female, not over 35 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- 4-5 years Retail Merchandising, Store Operations or Brand Management experience
- experience in planning, forecasting and allocation
- computer literate

Merchandise Planning & Control Analyst / Merchandising Coordinator

The successful candidate will provide support to merchandise management in sales/ inventory analysis, formulation of policies and control procedures related to merchandising, warehousing and ensure compliance to set policies and procedures.

- female, not over 30 years old
- graduate of BS Industrial Engineering or Economics
- with at least 1-2 years of experience in sales inventory analysis and development of merchandising or warehouse procedures

Interested parties may apply personally from
Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at:

SM Corporate Office
Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City

www.sm-shoemart.com
RecruitSMHO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring comprehensive resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number/SSS Employment History print out, photocopy and original of Transcript of Records and Diploma)

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makro

We are a leading multinational company known for its unique position in wholesale trade and distribution. We are inviting top notch candidates in our search for:

ACCOUNTANTS

The position requires at least 2 years experience in General Accounting, Cost Analysis and Payables. Function includes analyses finances, maintains financial statements/records of the company, monitors data flow and ensures compliance to required standards, ensures implementation of corporate policies and assist in the development of necessary procedures. Works with less supervision. Graduate of Accounting.

We are offering very competitive compensation package and opportunities for career growth.

Please e-mail your comprehensive resumé no later than **April 12, 2006** to:

hrmgr@makro.com.ph or send to
HR Department, **PILIPINAS MAKRO, INC.**
Km 21 East Service Road, SSHW Sucat, Muntinlupa City

PRODUCT SALES SPECIALISTS & RECEPTIONIST

LIBERTYSTILE

LIBERTYSTILE IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

PRODUCT SPECIALISTS

- Male or Female, between 24-34 years old
- Degree holder, preferably in Marketing Management, Business Management, Interior Design and Architecture
- Computer Literate, Excellent Interpersonal and Communication Skills
- With pleasing personality, smart, aggressive, self-motivated and resourceful
- Preferably with experience in Sales construction, Interior Design and related product lines

RECEPTIONIST

- Female, between 23-30 years old
- Graduate of any business related course from reputable universities
- With at least 1 year work experience in a position of similar capacity
- Capable of multi-tasking, organized and efficient
- Computer literate, with excellent oral and written English communication skills

Interested Applicants may send their resumé along with 2x2 picture by post or e-mail to:

223 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air Village II, Makati City 1227
libertystile@skyinet.net

Note: Personal Applications will not be entertained.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTING OFFICERS

For an expanding Group of Companies
at least one-year relevant experience
Female, not more than 30 years old,
must be a graduate of BS Accountancy or
BSC major in Accounting

Mail resumés to
hr_campaigns@yahoo.com.ph
Resumé of new graduates are also accepted

WANTED

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

(Biology, Physics, T.H.E., English & Math)
for S.Y. 2006-2007
Apply w/ TR and Resumé at:
FRANCISCO SCHOOL
045 Quirino Highway, Baesa, Q.C.
Tel. No. 362-85-73 / 455-49-88

Son InfoSystems, Inc.

We are currently looking for talented, self- motivated & goal oriented professionals to fill in the following positions:

MARKETING MANAGER
- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing or Business Management; Master's Degree is an advantage
- 2 to 3 years experience as Marketing Manager
- Above average communication skill
- Knowledge in Basic Computer Applications – MS Office
- With Information Technology (IT) Background
- With strong sales and organizational skills
- Project Management and Planning Experience
- Can do product and service presentations
- Willing to do field work

ACCOUNTING PERSONNEL / STAFF
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting
- Average communication skill
- 2 years experience as Accounting Personnel / Staff
- Knowledge in Basic Computer Applications - MS Office
- Must have excellent quantitative and analytical skills
- Knowledge in the preparation of Financial Statement
- Can work with minimum supervision

PROJECT COORDINATOR
- Bachelor's Degree in any computer-related course
- 1 year experience in project management
- Above average communication skill
- With strong organizational skill
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to do field work

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER
- Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management, Psychology or Behavioral Science.
- 1 to 2 years experience as Human Resource Officer
- Has experience in doing technical recruitment in an IT company.
- Preferably with wide recruitment network.
- Resourceful and can work under pressure.
- Has a pleasing personality and excellent oral and written communication skills.

SYSTEM ANALYST
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science / Information Technology; Master's Degree is an advantage
- 2 to 3 years experience as System Analyst
- Should be adept at least five (5) of the following programming languages. C Language, C++, C# , Assembly Language, Cobol, Visual Basic,
  Visual FoxPro, ASP.net, VB net, PHP ETC.
- Knowledge in Data Base Design - Oracle, SQL, DB2
- Knows how to manage system development, project team and pressures.
- Above average communication skill

PROGRAMMERS
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science / Information Technology / Computer Engineering;
- 1 to 2 years experience as Programmer
- Should be adept at least three (3) of the following programming languages: C Language, C++, C#, Visual Basic, ASP.net, VB net, Oracle, SQL, DB2 etc.
- Average communication skill
- Can work with minimum supervision

MULTIMEDIA DESIGNER / DEVELOPERS
- Bachelor's Degree Graduate
- 1 year experience as Multimedia Designer / Developer
- Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia Flash, Audio and Video Editing
- Average communication skill
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Creative

WEB DEVELOPERS
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science / Information Technology
- 1 to 2 years experience as Web Developer
- Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop, Dreamweaver, HTML Applications, MS SQL, ASP.Net and .NET Framework,
- Average communication skill
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Creative

GRAPHIC ARTISTS
- Bachelor's Degree Graduate
- 1 year experience as Graphic Artist
- Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Corel Draw
- Can do free hand sketching
- Average communication skill
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Creative

You can submit your application thru:
E-mail - hrd@isoninfosystem.com or hrd@go2ph.net
(Please indicate position as your e-mail subject.) or
Mail to First IT Center, 7373 Bakawan St., San Antonio Village, Makati City.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES ENGINEER

- Engineering graduate
- Possesses good communication skills
- Honest and hardworking
- With previous sales experience

AIRCON TECHNICIAN

Single, Vocational Graduate
With minimum 5 years experience

AUTO AIRCON TECH

Single, With 5 years min. experience

Please apply in person with resumé & picture to:

1650 A. Francisco St.,
San Andres Bukid, Manila
Tel. No. 561-2078 / 562-2703

TRINITY MARKETING, INC.

Tel. # 301-0909
Look for Fe/Rose
E-MAIL ADD: feaguilar@trinity.com.ph

★ **TELE-MARKETING PERSONNEL**
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course

★ **SALES AGENT/ACCT. EXECUTIVE**
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably Marketing major

★ **CADET PLANT SUPERVISOR**
- Male, not more than 30 years old
- Engineering Graduate

★ **ACCOUNTING PERSONNEL**
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Accounting Graduate

★ **MACHINE OPERATOR**
- Male, not more than 30 years old
- Preferably College Level/High School Graduate

★ **PRODUCT DESIGN SPECIALIST**
- Male/Female, Graduate of Fine Arts or Industrial Design
- With 2-3 years experience in Packaging, POP, Poster & Product Design
- Can speak English & understand Mandarin, and willing to work in Shanghai, China

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SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

JOB Market

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER
CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

invites highly qualified candidates to apply for the following job vacancies:

POSITION / JOB SUMMARY	EDUCATION/ EXPERIENCE	SKILLS
EVENTS SERVICES OFFICER Coordinates specific requirements of events with other departments to ensure efficient delivery of service./ Ensures settlement of all financial obligations by the clients and proper and efficient ingress and egress of clients' equipment and properties. /Conducts briefing for clients and their contractors to ensure clarity and adherence to rules, regulations and policies. / Reviews estimates of charges as well as the final estimate of expenses to ensure proper billing to clients. / Prepares and explains contract provisions to clients and discusses provisions and obligations for their proper Implementation. / Prepares Terminal Reports./ Ensures repeat business by maintaining good working relationship with clients./ Assists the Marketing Division in promoting facilites, packages and other programs thru client calls and blitzes. /Ensures smooth flow of operations by implamenting an efficient Account Status Trace System.	Bachelor's Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management and/or Mass Comm. and/or Tourism or other fields related to the job. For Events Services Officer, minimum of five (5) years of relevant experience, three (3) years of which involves managing/supervising personnel from an event management company, hotel, tourism oriented organizations or other institutions engaged in organizing events. For Sales and Marketing Specialist and Events Services Specialist positions, three (3) to four (4) years of relevant work experience from an event management company, hotel or other Institutions engaged in sales, marketing and events organization.	Good public relations, good oral and written communication skills, organized and disciplined, analytical, patient and persevering, able to handle multiple tasks simultaneously and meet set deadlines, willing to work long hours and during weekends and holidays if needed. Highly proficient in MS Office.
SALES AND MARKETING SPECIALIST Undertakes regular sales calls, maintains and ensures maximum productivity of accounts assigned and conduct "exploratory calls" on new accounts to maximize potential revenues./ Maintains an updated Account File Record to ensure efficient references./ Prepares Letters of Proposal to clients based on their requirements and coordinates these to the different departments as needed./ Assist in the preparation of necessary materials for marketing presentations and bid papers. / Ensures smooth flow of operations by implementing an efficient Account Status Trace system.		
EVENTS SERVICES SPECIALIST Coordinates specific requirements of events with other departments to ensure efficient service to clients./ Ensures settlement of all financial obligations by clients and proper/efficient ingress and egress of clients' equipment and properties. /Conducts briefings for clients and their contractors to ensures clarity on rules, regulations and policies./ Reviews estimates of charges as well as the final estimate of expenses to ensure proper billing to clients./ Prepares and explains contract provisions to clients and discusses provisions and obligations for their proper implementation./ Prepares Terminal Reports./Assist in the implementation of the overall plans and programs of the Division./ Conducts ocular inspections of facilities for clients. /Ensures that clients adhere to policies, rules and regulations./ Ensures smooth flow of operations by implementing an efficient Account Status Trace system.		
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER Facilitates the implementation & periodic updating of the PICC's Integrated Information System as to its efficiency, effectiveness, performance & submits appropriate recommendation. Analyzes resource utilization & initiates computer program improvements. Installs the network, defines capacity, rights & handles relocation & configuration of network set up when required. Conducts product evaluations, propose upgrading of computers, assumes the duties of system administrator, plans & implements system security policy such as host & client access. file permissions & user accounts. Regularly checks if security patches are updated, and applies them if needed in the Operating Systems. Recommends additional security software when needed for the server, work stations and LAN. Performs daily updates and/or troubleshooting if required. Updates relevant licenses.	Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Computer Technology or Computer Engineering. Five (5) years experience as System Administrator, two (2) years of which should be in a supervisory capacity.	Very good in LAN installation and administration, good planning skills, time and office management. With relevant training in Information Technology/System Administration.
PLANNING AND SAFETY ENGINEER Implements safety procedures and programs of the Center and assist the Director of Technical Services in work planning, implementation and monitoring of different activities relevant to security procedures and future projects of the Center. Disseminates safety rules, regulations and procedures in accordance w/ the local and national government safety codes thru constant coordination with fire departments and safety organizations in the Philippines. Recommends actions on the procurement of supplies/materials, repairs and upgrading of equipment. Assists in preparing project scope of works, bill of materials, cost estimate, requisitions for the needed services and materials, and in the conduct of inventory of supplies, parts and materials.	Licensed Civil, Mechanical or Electrical Engineer. Minimum of five (5) years relevant work experience, two (2) years of which is in a supervisory capacity.	Computer literate, w/ good planning skills and with ample training in basic occupational health and safety, scheduling and control procedures, project and construction management.
FIRE PROTECTION TECHNICIAN Maintains as well as installs new pipe works of all fire protection pipelines, automatic fire sprinkling systems, fire hose and fire hose cabinets, fire extinguishers, fire pumps, cistern and fire water storage tanks, fire exits and other fire related systems and accessories and sees to it that these items./facilities are always in good working condition and ready to be activated when the need arises. Coordinates with the Bureau of Fire Protection in carrying out the application of fire codes or other building ordinances in relation to the function and operation of these systems or other applicable systems. Assists in the preparation of work plans and schedules for daily team work and activities, emergency, safety and healthy environment. Prepares reports and safe keeps operation and maintenance records.	Engineering graduate, preferably Civil, Sanitary or Mechanical Engineering. Minimum of three (3) years relevant work experience.	Computer literate and well versed in fire and safety procedures and fire department operations. Can do piping and plumbing works.
SHIFT SUPERVISING TECHNICIAN Assists in the operation, maintenance, repair of air conditioning systems, chiller, condenser pumps, cooling towers, air handling units and allied equipment, packaged and window air conditioning units, water pumps, ventilation equipment/ systems, refrigeration & kitchen equipment, and building management systems. Leads shifting work operations. Determines types of workers to do the required jobs & the needed supplies, parts & materials. Coordinates with and/or supervises contractors rendering services directly affecting the Division or his assigned tasks. Develops understudy and trains co-workers/subordinates to continue improve their skills needed for the job to assume higher responsibilities.	Graduate of Mechanical Engineering w/ at least four (4) years relevant work experience, two (2) years of which is in a supervisory capacity or graduate of relevant vocational/trade course w/ six (6) years relevant work experience, two (2) yrs. of which is in a supervisory capacity. Must be a Certified Plant Mechanic	Hands on trouble shooting skills in centralized air conditioning equipment/ system, electrical motor & controls. Computer literate, w/ good planning, time & office management skills

For interested applicants, please mail your comprehensive resume with 2x2 picture to Makati Central Post Office P.O. Box _____ or send thru e-mail to beth_balagat@yahoo.com

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- Capable and eager to learn new and commercially applied knowledge in any one or more of the following fields:
  - Finance and Investment
  - Management
  - Marketing and Sales
  - Economic Analysis
  - Tourism and Travel
  - Local Community Development
  - Architectural Drafting
  - Paralegal Activities
  - Computer Applications

  [PLEASE INDICATE YOUR AREA(S) OF INTEREST]
- You must unconditionally:
  - Be willing to work full time including late and off hours, weekends and holidays
  - Be able to get along with others, non-abrasive, non-confrontational
  - Submit and be totally committed to adapt to the company's existing culture, if you are accepted
  - Possess and have a verifiable record of unquestionable integrity (references are required)
  - Be trustworthy and personable
  - Have some computer literacy
  - Agree to teach and pass on acquired knowledge and skills to others to replace you so you can be promoted

If you fulfill the above conditions, please submit your full bio-data, I.D. photo, email address and fax no. (for remote preliminary testing) to:

HRD
P.O. Box 130 MCPO
Makati City

You may wish to secure a documented book about our institution by stating so in your application letter together with a check or cash equivalent to P500.00. Upon approval, first come first served, we shall send a copy to you which you may either keep, or return any time within 30 days for a full refund.

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Please email your resumé for immediate reply: quanta@pldtdsl.net
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- ✓**ALLIED MEDICAL COURSES** (Caregiver/ Practical Nursing Assistant/ Augmented Practical/ Health Care Practice)
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Address : 2nd Flr. Lores Country Plaza , M.L.Quezon St. Antipolo City • CMLI Bldg. North Ave. Cor. Agham Road Quezon City (Across Veterans Memorial Hospital)

RMR ELECTRIC CORPORATION
IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. TECHNICAL SERVICING SUPERVISOR
Qualifications:
1. Graduate of B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering
2. Male, 26 to 35 years old
3. With 5 years experience as service engineer
4. Computer proficient, knowledge in AutoCAD and MS Project is an advantage
5. Aggressive, can relate well with all types of people
6. Proficient in planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation
7. Proficient in oral and written communication
8. Can lead and motivate people
9. Knowledgeable in digital metering, energy monitoring, software products, variable frequency drives (VFD) and protective relaying

B. ACCOUNTING STAFF / COST CLERK
Qualifications:
1. Accounting graduate
2. Male or female, 21 to 30 years of age
3. With at least 2 years experience as accounting staff preferably on product costing in a manufacturing company
4. Proficient in MS Office
5. Hardworking & dependable

Please mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé w/ 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

Administration Dept.
RMR Electric Corporation
53 West Avenue, Quezon City
or e-mail at rmr@rmrelectric.com.ph

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Chow King Conference Facility
JY Square Bldg., Salinas Corner Gorordo Ave Lahug

April 2, 2006
Interview-All professions: 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM
FREE Seminar (Nurses/PT/OT): 3:00PM-5:30PM
Interview-All professions: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

April 3, 2006
Interview-All professions: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
FREE Seminar (Other Professionals): 5:00PM-8:00PM

Cagayan De Oro City
The Dynasty Hotel
Tiano corner Hayes Sts., Cagayan de Oro City

April 4, 2006
Interviews-All professions: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
FREE Seminar (Nurses/PT/OT): 5:30PM-8:00 PM

Application & Registration Forms Available at:
CCF Copy and Printshoppe – T. Chavez St.

Iligan City
Café Hemoso
Badelles Ext., Lanao Del Norte, Pala-o, Iligan City

April 5, 2006
Interview-All professions: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
FREE Seminar (Nurses/PT/OT): 5:30PM-8:00 PM

Davao City
The Apo View Hotel
J. Camus St., Davao City

April 6, 2006
Interview-All professions: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

April 7, 2006
Interview-All professions: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
FREE Seminar (Other Professionals): 5:30PM-8:00PM

April 8, 2006
Interview-All professions: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
FREE Seminar (Nurses/PT/OT)1:00-3:00 PM
Interview- Nurses/PT/OT: 3:00 PM - 5:00

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Basic Requirements for Interview

NURSES
Resume and Bio-Data w/ 2 passport-size photos
NCLEX Certificate (if available)
CGFNS & VisaScreen (if available)
IELTS/TOEFL-TSE (if available)
Phil. License, PRC Certificate and Board Rating
Certified Transcript Of Record (TOR)
College & High School Diploma
3 Certificates of Employment
Training & Seminar Certificates

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS
Resume and Bio-Data w/ 2 passport-size photos
NPTE Certificate or Proof of Application & Review Class
FCCPT Certificate (if available)
TOEFL-TSE Certificate (if available)
Phil. License, Board Certificate and Board Rating
Certified Transcript Of Record (TOR)
College & High School Diploma
3 Certificates of Employment
Training & Seminar Certificates

CPAs, ACCOUNTANTS, IT, ENGINEERS, ETC.
Resume and Bio-Data w/ 2 passport-size photos
Phil. License, Board Certificate and Board Rating (if applicable)
Certified Transcript Of Record (TOR)
College & High School Diploma
3 Certificates of Employment
Training & Seminar Certificates

Save the Children Federation, Inc

Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide, implementing community development projects that help children in need. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for:

HEALTH/POPULATION/NUTRITION MANAGER

Reporting directly to the Deputy Country Director of the Philippines Field Office, the Health Manager will be primarily responsible for providing overall direction to the health, population and nutrition efforts of the Philippines Field Office. He/she will provide technical inputs to the Health Coordinators in existing program areas related to the implementation of programs/projects under Save the Children's Sectoral Program Initiatives Team (SPRINT). He/she shall also serve as a liaison for health initiatives between Save the Children and its partner agencies. He/she may also be requested to provide technical assistance to these partner agencies. He/she shall also be responsible for providing direction to resource generation in this sector and for coordinating efforts in pursuing funding opportunities.

Key responsibilities:
The Health/Population/Nutrition Manager shall: (1) provide technical inputs for programming and decision-making related to the health, population, nutrition sector, (2) Prepare project proposals for submission either to funding agencies or to other Save the Children offices, and develop/refine HPN strategies towards scaling up or institutionalization, (3) provide technical support for the Health Coordinators in existing program areas, (4) Coordinate with head office HPN staff and provide them with inputs/technical support for securing central grants for this sector, (4) Prepare reports to funding agencies, home office, partner organizations and the Deputy Field Office Director, (5) Document experiences in sectoral programming for publication, technical presentation to local and international audience or for circulation among special groups.

The position will based in Metro Manila and will require periodic travel to other program areas Iloilo and Mindanao. During these trips, HPN Manager is expected to prepare detailed scopes of work, trip reports and similar documentation of activities undertaken in the field.

Requirements:
This is a senior position requiring strong leadership and management skills; Previous work experience in a similar position in an international NGO highly preferred; Doctor of Medicine or Bachelor's degree in related discipline required; Minimum of ten years program development experience. Demonstrated training and research skills. Fluency in English required. Computer literacy a must. Professional work experience in a multi-cultural work a plus.

Qualified applicants may send their resumés on or before April 12, 2006 to : *By mail* - CODE: HPN MGR, Save the Children Federation, Inc., No.1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. *By fax:* (632) 853-02-15. *By e-mail:* HR_Recruitment@savechildren.org (please indicate code "HPN MGR" in subject line).

Save the Children Federation, Inc

Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide, implementing community development projects that help children in need. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for:

SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR

Reporting directly to the Sponsorship Manager, the Sponsorship Coordinator will be primarily responsible for supervising and coordinating sponsorship services of the Philippines Country Office. He/she will be responsible for the following functional areas sponsorship services: sponsor servicing and correspondence; annual family update and annual status report; mid year eligibility checks and the third annual mailing; fourth annual mailing; sponsor visits; Director's letter and child inventory.

Key responsibilities:
The Sponsorship Coordinator shall: (1) record and provide quality response to all sponsor related requests and inquiries and coordinate with the respective program areas on inquiries pertaining to children under their program impact areas; (2) plan, coordinate and ensure the accuracy of data gathered in the regular conduct of annual family updates; (3) plan and coordinate with the Sponsorship Manager on the conceptualization and implementation of third and fourth annual mailing and eligibility check requirements; (4) coordinate and arrange itinerary and logistics of Sponsor visits in close coordination with program staff; (5) develop, ensure and deliver annual holiday cards and Director's letters to all PhCO sponsors; (6) plan and manage case history requirements including conduct of orientation to parents and coordination of case history collections; (7) supervise staff operations of the PhCO Sponsorship Unit to ensure meeting of targets; (8) ensure that monitoring systems are updated for purposes of tracking sponsorship activities; (9) ensure that sponsorship files/records are updated and readily available.

Requirements:
This is a position requiring strong leadership, communication and interpersonal skills; Previous work experience in a similar position in an international NGO is highly preferred; Bachelor in Communication Arts or related field preferred; Minimum of two years experience in related positions. Demonstrated training and customer relation skills. Fluency in English required. Computer literacy a must. Professional work experience in a multi-cultural work a plus.

Qualified applicants may send their resumés on or before April 12, 2006 to : *By mail* - CODE: SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR, Save the Children Federation, Inc., No.1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. *By fax:* (632) 853-02-15. *By e-mail:* HR_Recruitment@savechildren.org (please indicate code "SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR" in subject line).

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We offer you:
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Interested? Please send your Application Letter, Transcript of Record, and Resume (indicate desired salary rate) with recent passport photo on or before April 15, 2006 to:

Jeanette S. Juaton
NEH Philippines, Inc.
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Buhangin, Davao City
Tel. Nos. 224-5637 to 38
Email address: jjuaton@nehphil.com

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ROVI MULTI-PRODUCTS, INC.

Is in need of the following qualified personnel

- **Area Sales Manager and Sales Executives**
  - Must be College Graduate and experienced in sales of architectural products such as floorings, doors and windows, light, etc.
  - Will be assigned specific areas for sales saturation
  - Must know how to drive vehicle & with valid driver's license
- **Receptionist/ Telephone Operator**
  - Must be a graduate of two-year course and able to speak English proficiently.
  - Will handle all incoming calls and coordinate with corresponding personnel.
  - Above candidates must be computer literate in MS Word, Excel at the minimum
- **Accounting Supervisor and Accounting Assistant**
  - College Graduate, major in Accounting
  - Must have excellent knowledge in Accounting and Auditing works
  - Knowledge of MS WORD, EXCEL and MYOB.

Interested parties may send their application by snail mail, email, fax or delivered in person to....

B1 Warehouse Lietz Industrial Complex, Edison Ave. (P. Leviste Ave.),
Km. 14 South Luzon Expressway, Brgy. Sun Valley, Parañaque City
Fax#(02)823-5203 Email: rovimultiproducts@yahoo.com

Quality jobs left unfilled due to mismatch — DOLE

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY Patricia A. Sto. Tomas has reiterated that there are quality job opportunities in a number of sectors in the country that are left unfilled because of the persistent problem of jobs-skills mismatch. In order to tackle jobs-skills mismatch, she said that the DOLE has initiated efforts to enable the education and training system to generate the right workers required by the nine emerging industries tagged as key employment generators of the country's economy. Based on the Action Plan of the recently concluded National Manpower Summit, the nine sectors are projected to generate more than four million new employment from 2006 to 2010, of which more than 1.2 million are expected to be generated from the years 2006 to 2007 alone. Sto. Tomas said that in 2006, the top three job generating sectors are agribusiness with a projected 329,609 jobs, followed by cyber services with 148,350, and hotels and restaurants with 56,001. Sto. Tomas, however, stressed that, "while there are quality jobs available in these sectors, the problem lies in mismatch, or the challenge of filling them up with qualified manpower possessing the required skills and competencies." The Summit, she saiThe DOLE sees appropriate education and technical training as an effective solution in eliminating jobs-skills mismatch. The DOLE is already in collaboration with government departments, industry stakeholders, and the social partners to ensure the advancement of the country's human capital.

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May 3, 4, & 5, 2006, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Holiday Inn Galleria

Day 1
- Letter of Authority (LA)
- First Notice
- Second Notice
- Third Notice
- Responsibility & Accountability of Bookespers, Accountants, Auditors and Company Officials

Day 2
- Handling Report of Investigation
- Notice for Informal Conference
- Preliminary Assessment Notice
- Final Assessment Notice

Day 3
- BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum
- DOJ Fiscal Duces Tecum
- BIR Complaint Affidavit
- Preparing Counter Affidavit
- Preparation of Rejoinder
- Fiscal Resolution
- Ruling of Appeal to DOJ

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Speaker - Prof. Emelino Maestro

Founder of Tax Accountant Society, the National Organization of BIR Accredited Tax Agents; Auditor Ng Bayan, Founder of ETM Tax Agent Training Center, Author of 14 Accounting & Auditing Books.

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INTERVIEW DATES.
April 3 & 4, 2006

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acer

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- graduates of computer related course from reputable universities
- with excellent communication skills
- flexible, pro-active, goal-oriented, highly motivated and a team player

Qualified applicants may submit their resumes with recent 2x2 colored ID photo not later than April 7, 2006 at the following addresses:

Acer Philippines, Inc.
Human Resource Department
Unit 3401, 34th Floor, PBCom Tower 6795 Ayala Ave., cor. Herrera St.,1226 Makati City.
or e-mail: alma_rada@acer.com.ph

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☐ Must have at least one (1) year experience in the following disciplines: MS Visual Foxpro or Microsoft .NET programming; Microsoft SQL Server 2000 database; Crystal Reports or SQL Reporting Services; ASP.NET or ADO.NET; Windows 2003 Server; VPN, Mobile, Web Development

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
☐ Any college degree; with very good written and oral communication skills; willing to be assigned to field work; is self-disciplined and motivated; with good inter-personal skills; experience in selling IT software solutions is an advantage

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9631 Kamagong St. Brgy San Antonio, Makati City 1203
Tel # 8993959; Fax # 8909671; Email: wlchan@ccc.com.ph
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Apply in person or email your resume to:

THE ADMINISTRATOR
1273 Batangas cor. Faraday Sts. San Isidro, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 815-1601 / 844-1615 / 844-1934
729-7674 / 729-7675 / 8876850
E-mail: stmary@pacific.net.ph • stmary.admin@pacific.net.ph
marcials@pacific.net.ph • Website http://www.smws.edu.ph

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- With pleasing personality
- With good P.R.
- Fluent in English
- With good oral & written communication in English
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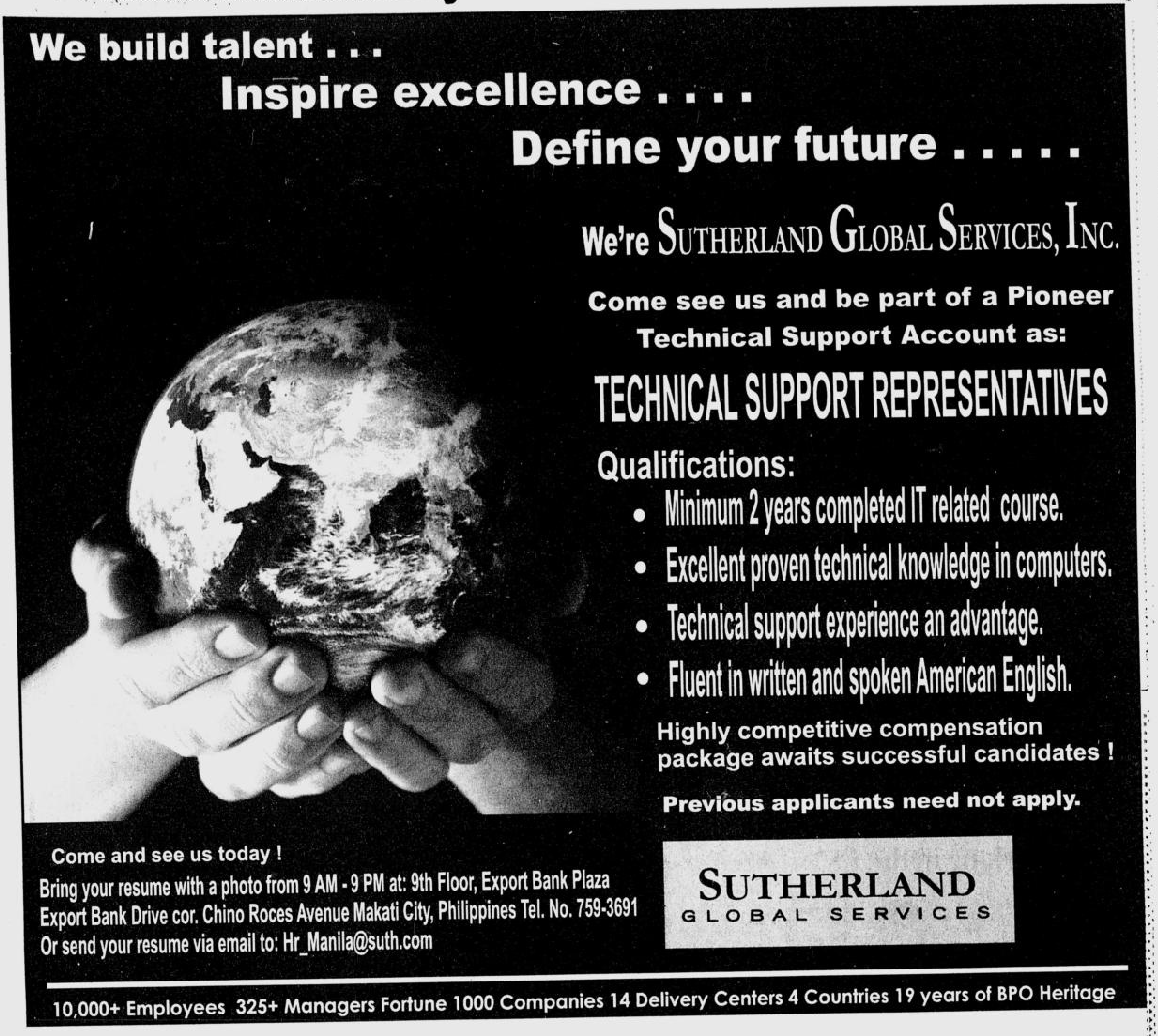

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Preserving culture is a service to country

By Raissa Claire Rivera Falgui

ALL ABOUT WORK

HER DAY HAS JUST BEGUN, Executive Director of the National Museum Corazon Alvina is already inundated with messages and phone calls on matters that must be dealt with before she can settle down in her office in the National Museum's Old Administration building to be interviewed. Asked what her work entails, Alvina laughingly explains, "It cannot be told briefly—it's managing the National Museum administratively and it's defending Republic Act 492, which is the National Museum Law... It's kind of large."

And so it is, for her work covers excavations, reference collections to botany, zoology, geology and looking after archeological sites and cultural property (like antiques, buildings). She also takes care of housekeeping, which means seeing to it that the electricity and waters bills are paid, the building is clean, and there are no fire hazards. Right now, Alvina is also overseeing the renovation of the building that will soon become the National Art Gallery and shepherding the legislation that will ensure the funding for the National Museum as well as the culture and arts in the country.

Alvina holds a job that would overwhelm most people with stress, but she claims she is never really stressed by her job. Nor does she take credit for accomplishing all these responsibilities, at least not on her own, as she is assisted by a large staff. "I'm able to achieve because of cooperation, because of other people... certainly I don't do these things on my own."

From books to museums

Alvina's career start as a member of the staff of another museum was not something she had actually planned on. Having graduated with a degree in anthropology, she naturally expected to do some kind of cultural work, but she had no definite plans of working in museums. She started working on some books with Felice Sta. Maria, known for her work in culture and the arts. "After the Marcoses were booted out, Felice Sta. Maria was made president of the Metropolitan Museum and she asked me to guest curate once in a while. Finally, they thought they should have an in-house person to do this (curating) and they asked me to come in."

She stayed in the Met Museum for 10 years, becoming head of the operations committee, educational and commissions director, then director of the museum and was finally elected president.

Then, in November 2001, nearly four years ago, she was invited to become the head of the National Museum.

An offer she couldn't refuse

As it happened, she was the unanimous choice of three bodies in charge of selecting the new Director of the National Museum. "The presidential board wanted me, which was happenstance, I suppose, as the board of trustees and an independent search committee also wanted me. So there was no wrangling about who they wanted; they only had to make me say yes. Because I was inclined to say no in the beginning."

It took her some time and much thought to say yes. She was finally convinced to accept the post by Patrick Flores, former chair of the University of the Philippines Art Studies Department who now also works for the Museum. She had already sought advice from all her other friends, some were "pro" and some were "con." At the time she spoke to Flores, "I had the same number of pro and con. And Patrick was the last person and he broke the tie by saying, 'You can't say no, because this is a call to serve your country.' "

While she thinks that describing her position as such is "a little highfaluting," Alvina does believe that it enables her to "make a difference, to serve the causes that will be good for the country."

The causes that she serves are numerous and varied. Alvina finds that being Director of the National Museum not only entails more responsibility but also involves an understanding of more fields of study than her previous work. "In the Met, I only had to deal with art and the applications of pedagogics in art and social sciences, but here we have natural history and so I have also to pay attention to botany, zoology."

Coordinating all these different areas may seem complicated but Alvina maintains that it is not, not really with all the structure to help her. She admits that she was not a naturally organized person to begin with, but she has adjusted and finds that following the interminable rules provided by the government actually helps everything run smoothly.

"That's the thing about government service—there are so many rules to guide you and of course, it will make you bureaucratic and there's so much red tape, but if you follow those then nothing should really surprise you... And the rest, I think, is commonsense."

Perhaps it really is that simple. Or perhaps the challenges and complexities don't faze her because she loves her work.

Everything is a highlight

The job may not come with much of a financial incentive—Alvina points out museum work certainly isn't a career for those who are interested in getting rich. There are many opportunities for travel, but these trips can be so numerous and demand so much work as to be less enjoyable in themselves.

Still, Alvina emphasizes the enriching nature of her work. "I always look at it as a privilege, because if you like working with heritage, if you like working with antiques, with science, and to be able to make a difference, to be able to change the course of things for those disciplines is a privilege."

ALVINA PDI PHOTO

Not only does she have the opportunity to constantly learn new things, she also meets "the most interesting people." She feels honored to have met many distinguished Filipinos, especially scientists who usually end up on foreign shores. She meets distinguished foreigners too, mostly directors of other countries' national museums. "So you expand the opportunity for professional relationships, for stimulation and certainly for friendships."

And of course, there is satisfaction in enriching other people's minds, of making them realize the importance of culture and heritage in their lives and seeing this in efforts to conserve and preserve aspects of culture.

In such a career so full of diverse experiences few particular events stand out, but they all together contribute to her sense of fulfillment. "Everything is a highlight to me, even a small thing. I'd like to think my whole life has been a highlight...You learn from everything."

How organizations ...

From page 10★★

organization functions by having a better understanding of business decisions (61 percent) and greater knowledge of the business (38 percent). Sharing the organization's vision also increased productivity (43 percent), ensuring the long-term success of the business.

Tips

Communicating a strategic vision still remains one of the most important and challenging functions of business leaders/managers today. Here are some tips on how to make the vision come alive in your own organization:

1. Discuss the vision frequently and consistently. Incorporate it into every employee's day-to-day routine.
2. Translate the vision into metrics and ensure that management's behaviors are consistent with the vision of the organization, group and individual goals.
3. Conduct vision implementation workshops to identify how each department and individual can best contribute to the vision.
4. Evaluate how well the organization's vision is being practiced by employees through surveys.
5. Finally, recognize employee behaviors consistent with the vision by giving positive feedback and rewards.

(Ms. Farida R.Pangan is the research and OD officer of Ateneo CORD. Send feedback to ateneocord @admu.edu.ph.*)*

'I am obsessed ...'

From page 10★★

share with you is to live the present moment well. Most of our problems and fears are based on living either in the future or in the past. Do not live with your mind daydreaming about the United States visa or concocting the worst possible scenarios. Be peaceful. Concentrate on doing your daily work with excellence. You are right in looking at Singapore as an alternative place to work and sending other application letters. As the saying goes, "Do not put your eggs in a single basket." All the best.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Email advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or call tel. no. 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898)*

PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

What are the unwritten rules at work?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I KNOW HOW things are supposed to work in my company. But it's clear to me that there are also a lot of unwritten rules. How do you learn what gives outside of the personnel manual and operating policies?

Invisible Ink

Everything that I needed to know about the unwritten rules at work I learned from Mr. Mamadou Obotimbe Diabikile. He was shot by police and arrested after he tried to rob the Mali Development Bank in Bamako, Mali. Part of the reason that he was shot was that his movements were hindered by the seven pounds of magic charms he was wearing to make himself invisible.

Unwritten rules at work are like those magic charms. As much as they may seem invisible, there are often telltale signs of their existence. You've just got to be aware enough to look for them. I've listed some questions below to help you identify the unwritten rules where you work. For more, check out "Survival of the Savvy" by Brandon and Seldman (Free Press, 2005).

What are the official rules? Okay, your company personnel manual might not be the most scintillating summer reading, but it could be some of the most valuable. In addition, read your company's annual report and any published operating policies. Study the organizational chart. Read company publications. All of these can provide a glimpse of how the company likes to think things get done.

Valuable sources

How does management behave? Most employees have a Ph.D. in studying their boss. So this should be nothing new. But it is important to see how they behave and how they maneuver through the bureaucracy. Sure they'll always have an easier go of it, but you can almost always learn a trick or two by watching how they get things done.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Real priorities

What behaviors are rewarded and acted upon? This is the best part of capitalism; organizations tend to reward certain kinds of behavior with pay increases, bonuses and other bennies. Keep a lookout for exactly what gets rewarded in your organization. Another tool is to see what kind of behaviors get budget, staff and firepower assigned to them. Although the official line may be that the company cares about A, B and C, in the words of Deep Throat, "follow the money" and you just may see that it really values X, Y and Z.

What is the culture of the industry? In addition to company rules, there are industry practices that you should factor into the equation.

Do you talk to the successful people you know? In these days of e-mail, many of us are getting more removed from our coworkers. It is important to take the time to pick the brains of the people that you know are successful. Often this can be achieved for a cup of coffee or a beer.

Keep an eye out for the unwritten rules where you work and you'll never need to rob a bank to get ahead, you'll be laughing all the way to one.

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

'How can I improve my performance?'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

(Continued from March 19)

WHEN YOU FEEL the urge to make excuses, think twice. You only make excuses for not making things happen. Let me share with you some creative ways to overcome the temptation to make excuses. Make fun of your excuses. Write down one excuse at a time on a clean sheet of paper. Make ridiculous drawings on it, such as monsters with big ears or eyes. Color it with bold colors to make it even more ridiculous. Then, see how truly ridiculous your excuse has become.

Make things happen

Repeat the same process for every conceivable excuse you can think of. In fact, think of the most ridiculous excuses and draw on it, until all your possible excuses look ridiculous to you. Internalize it in your mind, and convince yourself that you will be as ridiculous as your drawings if you give in to your excuses.

Then, begin to visualize the benefits of having to do the things you should do. Blow those benefits out of proportion, or at least exaggerate the benefits of your possible action. Compare the potential benefits with how ridiculous you would be if you don't do what you ought to do. This will show a world of difference between making things happen and making excuses.

One of the greatest lessons I have learned is that the best things in life are not free. Success has a tag price. The people who succeed are those who are willing to pay the price. Contrary to popular belief, the price of success is not just money. The price could be your time, your attention, your effort to improve yourself – or simply the intellectual curiosity to read this column.

If you want the best things to come your way, go after them. They could be truly elusive, because countless others are after the same things. They usually go, not to the stronger or faster person, but to the ones who believe they can get them and are willing and able to take decisive action. Right here. Right now.

(Public service announcement: There will be a grand reunion of all alumni of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City in September this year. Alumni in Metro Manila can e-mail me their contact details so that the Organizing Committee can contact them.)

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

'I am obsessed with working in the US'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM AN AVID follower of your column because I really love the advice that you give. I have a pending application with an American firm. Frankly, I am no longer happy with my current job especially with some of our company policies.

Anyway, my problem is my obsession with my pending application with another company. I've given it great importance because it will enable me to get a US working visa and to settle in the United States. I was initially interviewed last June 2005. Actually, I couldn't believe it when I got an e-mail from them. At first, I thought they might have mistaken me for a US resident because I mentioned in my resumé that I did a project in the US in 2004. But when I got to talk to the recruiter, I was told that they know I am from the Philippines. The recruiter explained to me their hiring procedure, the States that I might cover, and the job. The firm is one of the largest in its industry and has offices worldwide. I have had two interviews with the last one conducted last July. Just one more interview stands between me and the valuable US job. Unfortunately, the H1B visa ran out in August.

I got an e-mail from one of the interviewers telling me that they will contact me again in April 2006 when the window for new H1B visa applications opens up. I also got a phone call from the recruiter assuring me that they will contact me in April 2006 and continue where we left off, which is the final interview. She even added that I am one of the strongest candidates.

I sent the recruiter a New Year greeting to subtly follow-up my application. But I did not receive any reply. Deep inside, I feel afraid that they might forget me. I know I am slowly getting impatient and insecure. But can you blame me? It is only once in a lifetime that I get this kind of opportunity. What can I do? I don't want to pester them with follow-up e-mail because they might get annoyed. Do you think they will really contact me in April as they have promised? I've tried keeping myself busy but I can't stop checking my Yahoo e-mail account.

I don't feel like applying locally anymore although I plan to apply for the open position in one of our sister companies in Singapore as some sort of a backup plan. I also continue to send applications to other US firms that hire foreign workers.

Anxious Applicant

Thank you for your letter. The reason you are feeling anxious about your application is because of your fear of losing the opportunity of working in the United States. But anxiety will not solve your problem. Instead, I suggest you face reality squarely and stop being anxious. If the recruiter comes from a prestigious recruitment company, then you simply have to trust him or her to be professional. I am sure you can send an e-mail to inquire from time to time about the status of your application. You can expect a candid reply from the company.

But how do you face your fears? My suggestion is to put them down in writing. Somehow, in my personal experience, writing down what bothers me allows me to think more clearly and as a result, I end up with more quality ideas.

You can do potential problem analysis. Ask yourself the following question, "What can go wrong with my application?" Some of your answers may be that your application may be forgotten or placed in a dead file. Another fear could be that the opportunity might get lost forever. Or that you may not be one of the lucky ones who will be called once the ban has been lifted.

Then, weigh the factors that can go wrong in terms of probability and seriousness. Examining those factors that are highly probable and highly serious, think of what you can do to prevent these factors from happening. These would be termed as preventive actions. In fact, sending a Christmas card is a step in the right direction. It is fine if you don't get a response. You have reminded the recruiter that you are still actively considering the application.

If you put in place the preventive actions, you can go further and ask, "What do I do if even with preventive actions, things still go wrong?" Then your responses will put in place your contingency actions.

The other guideline I wish to

'IAM/P.9★★

How organizations communicate their company vision

By Farida R. Pangan

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

TODAY'S COMPETITIVE AND dynamic business climate necessitates organizations having a compelling strategic vision. According to Dave Dolak, author of the book "Creating and Communicating Vision: The Business Leader's Primary Responsibility" (2001), a vision defines what the business is, why it exists and where it is going. When clearly articulated and communicated, this vision becomes the driving force of the organization. It amplifies the leader's ability to anticipate and respond to opportunities or pressures for change. At the same time, it serves to empower, generate commitment and *pakikiisa* among employees enabling the organization to achieve its goals, remain viable and successful in the long run.

However, all too often, statements of vision remain just that: statements. Underscoring this point, a study by Harris & Associates (Learning International, 1986) of top executives from large US companies shows that 82 percent of the executives said they had a definite vision of what their company should become and 79 percent thought that a long-term vision was necessary for the company's survival. However, only 38 percent felt that their vision was communicated throughout all levels in the company.

Survey

In order to find out how organizations communicate their company's vision, People at Work Pulse conducted a survey on this topic. The survey focused on employees' level of awareness when it comes to their organization's vision, the people involved in the crafting of the vision, the current practices in communicating the vision, and the possible outcomes of knowing their organization's vision.

Out of the 66 respondents from last month's survey, 58 percent were females with an average age of 33 years. Majority (65 percent) of them were single with an average tenure of seven years. Sixty-two percent of the respondents worked in private firms, 28 percent worked in the academe, and 10 percent worked in government agencies. All survey respondents reported having a company vision. More than half (57 percent) said they knew the gist of their organization's vision; 39 percent said they memorized it or knew it by heart and four percent said they can state their vision but do not understand it or have no idea what their vision is.

Vision formulation

Forty-nine percent of the respondents considered crafting the company vision as an important function of the business leader/founder while 20 percent of the respondents consider the managers' and supervisors' inputs as crucial during the visioning process. Only 7 percent said that the staff directly participated in crafting the vision. Surprisingly, only five percent believed that HR took an active role in developing the vision.

When asked how the vision was shared throughout the organization, respondents mentioned various communication techniques. Formal and organized gatherings such as orientation programs for new hires (66 percent) and meetings and presentations (56 percent) remain to be the most common methods. They also mentioned incorporating the vision in the employee's performance deliverables (41 percent), behavior modeling of business leaders (41 percent); followed by advertising/marketing campaigns (40 percent); plaques/engravings in offices/lobbies (39 percent); company newsletters (34 percent); culture-building activities (33 percent). Twenty percent (20 percent) used technology (via e-mail). Interestingly, only five percent put their vision in their company IDs.

Shared vision

Effectively communicating the vision throughout the organization could have various outcomes. Results from the survey show it could lead to positive work attitude. Specifically, employees found more meaning in their jobs (66 percent), have stronger feelings of empowerment (49 percent), loyalty towards the company (43 percent) and improved work relationships (43 percent). Furthermore, articulating the organization's vision could educate employees about how the

HOW/P.9★★

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Sharing than having

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

EVERY YEAR, WE WITNESS GRADUATION ceremonies of hundreds of young people who are very eager and willing to join the workforce. Equipped with their knowledge and skills, they offer to work in businesses and industries that will hire their services. A good number of these compete with several others to get into the top corporations or perhaps maneuver their way to get a job abroad. Having a job and getting the highest salary possible is foremost in the minds of many of these novice workers. We wonder how many of them would have service to others as their main preoccupation or the welfare and benefit of the company and society as their priority consideration over their personal interests.

Responding to the challenge to serve God and others in imitation of Jesus and His way of serving the Father and others continues to be an alternative choice for young workers to consider even today. Joining the workforce in order to share oneself (time, talent and life) with others to build a better and brighter world is certainly a nobler intention than working in order to have more money and satisfaction of one's personal needs. Preferring work which serves more needy people gives greater inner peace and spiritual satisfaction than working very hard in a high paying job which benefits only but a rich few. Jesus continues to call us to share ourselves in the work we do as "servants."

The culture of "sharing" rather than that of "having" when promoted in the minds of workers and even in those who are being prepared and trained to join the world of work will make our society joyful to receive every year a host of "servant-sharers." (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel: John 12: 20-33

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

Servant-leaders

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

PERHAPS THEY WOULD HARDLY BE FOUND in big corporations, but true "servant leaders" are among the most inspiring and gracious presences an ordinary worker can find in the workplace. Who are they? They are people in positions of relative power—like department heads, supervisors, managers, "bosses" in general—but who are not afraid to "lower" themselves, to be "one of us." They do not go around with their noses up in the air; rather, they act as workers' buddies while keeping intact their respectability as our bosses.

I will always smile remembering the president and owner of a company—and the building—who would courteously hold the door open for us female employees to pass. Other people would rush to open doors for him but he would not hesitate to do it for the "little people." Likewise, I'd recall a female boss I once knew who, each time she'd make coffee for herself, would not fail to offer her subordinates a cup, and would actually make and serve it herself! She'd do the same for her fellow-managers and her own bosses, gladly, naturally. (In contrast, there are executive secretaries who refuse to make coffee even for their bosses, saying it's the job of the receptionist maybe, of the trainee, the second class clerk or the janitress, etc.)

Such servant leaders show us real strength of character and genuine self-confidence—they know that it's never demeaning to be a humane person. So very like Jesus. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

APRIL 2, 2006

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RAGNAROK

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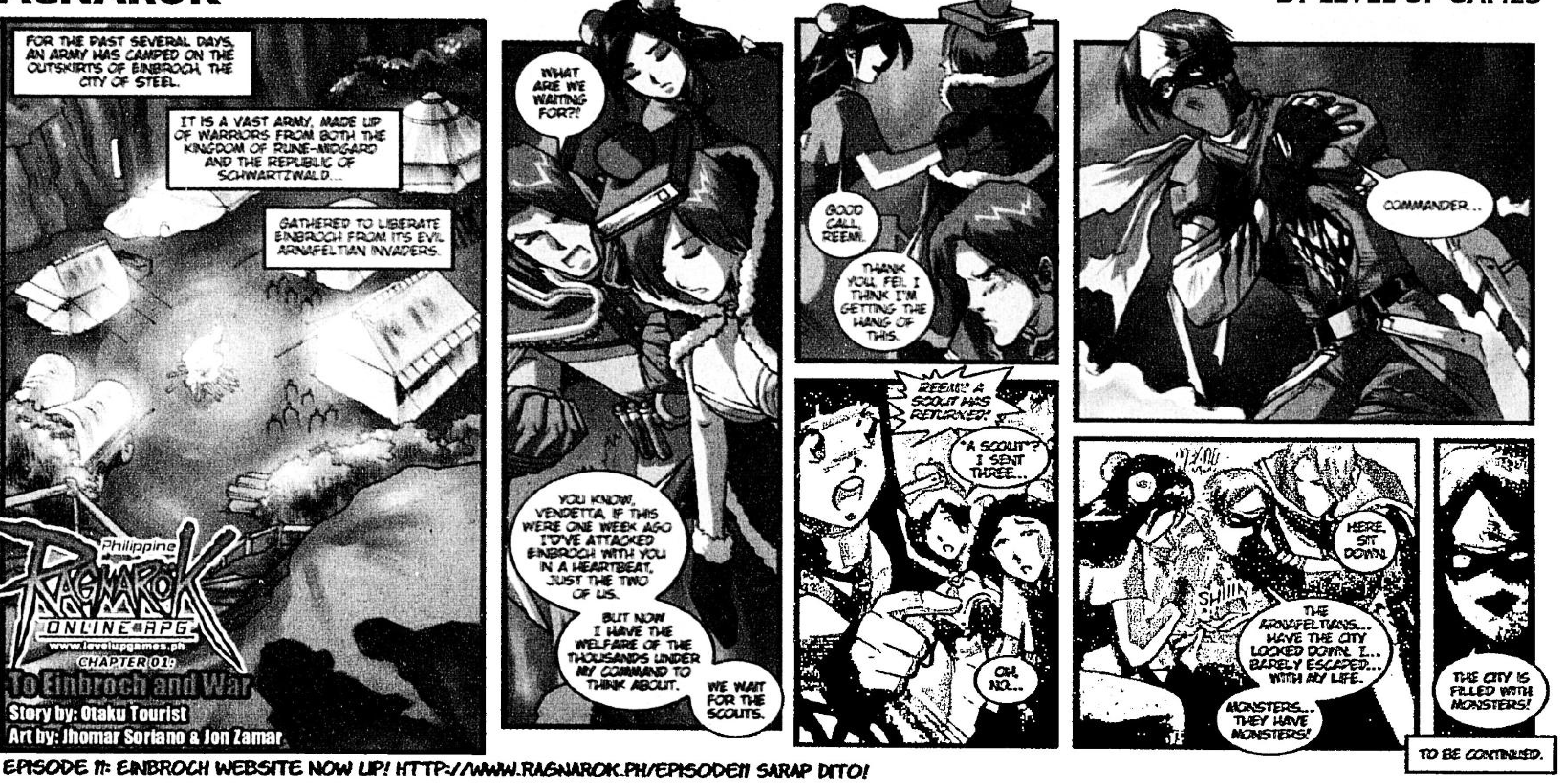
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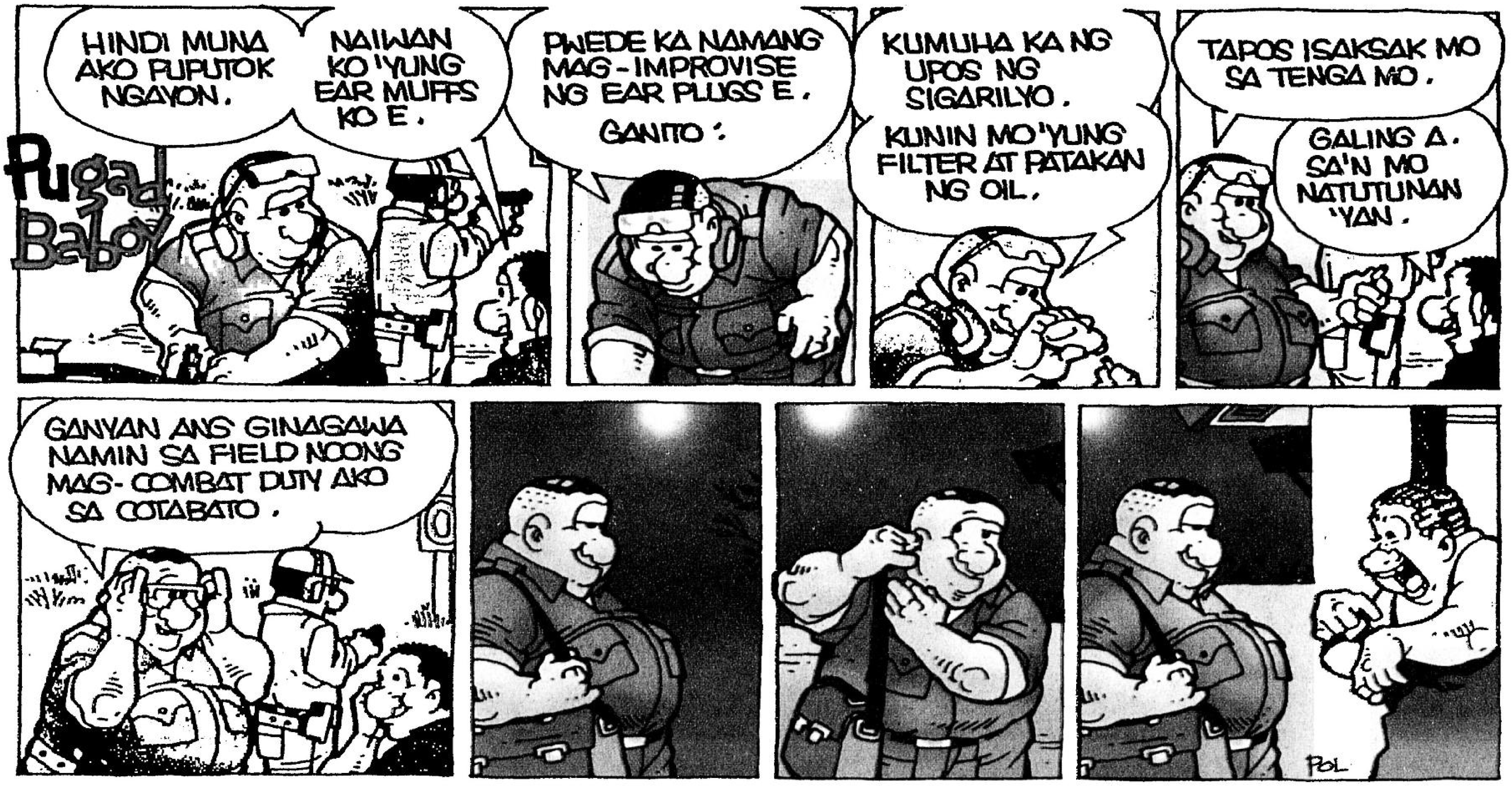
YOU KNOW, VENDETTA, IF THIS WERE ONE WEEK AGO I'D'VE ATTACKED EINBROCH WITH YOU IN A HEARTBEAT. JUST THE TWO OF US.
BUT NOW I HAVE THE WELFARE OF THE THOUSANDS UNDER MY COMMAND TO THINK ABOUT.
WE WAIT FOR THE SCOUTS.
GOOD CALL, REEMI.
THANK YOU, FEI. I THINK I'M GETTING THE HANG OF THIS.
REEMI! A SCOUT HAS RETURNED!
"A SCOUT"? I SENT THREE...
OH, NO...
COMMANDER...
SHIIIN
HERE, SIT DOWN.
THE ARNAFELTIANS... HAVE THE CITY LOCKED DOWN. I... BARELY ESCAPED... WITH MY LIFE.
MONSTERS... THEY HAVE MONSTERS!
THE CITY IS FILLED WITH MONSTERS!
TO BE CONTINUED.

EPISODE 11: EINBROCH WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE11 SARAP DITO!

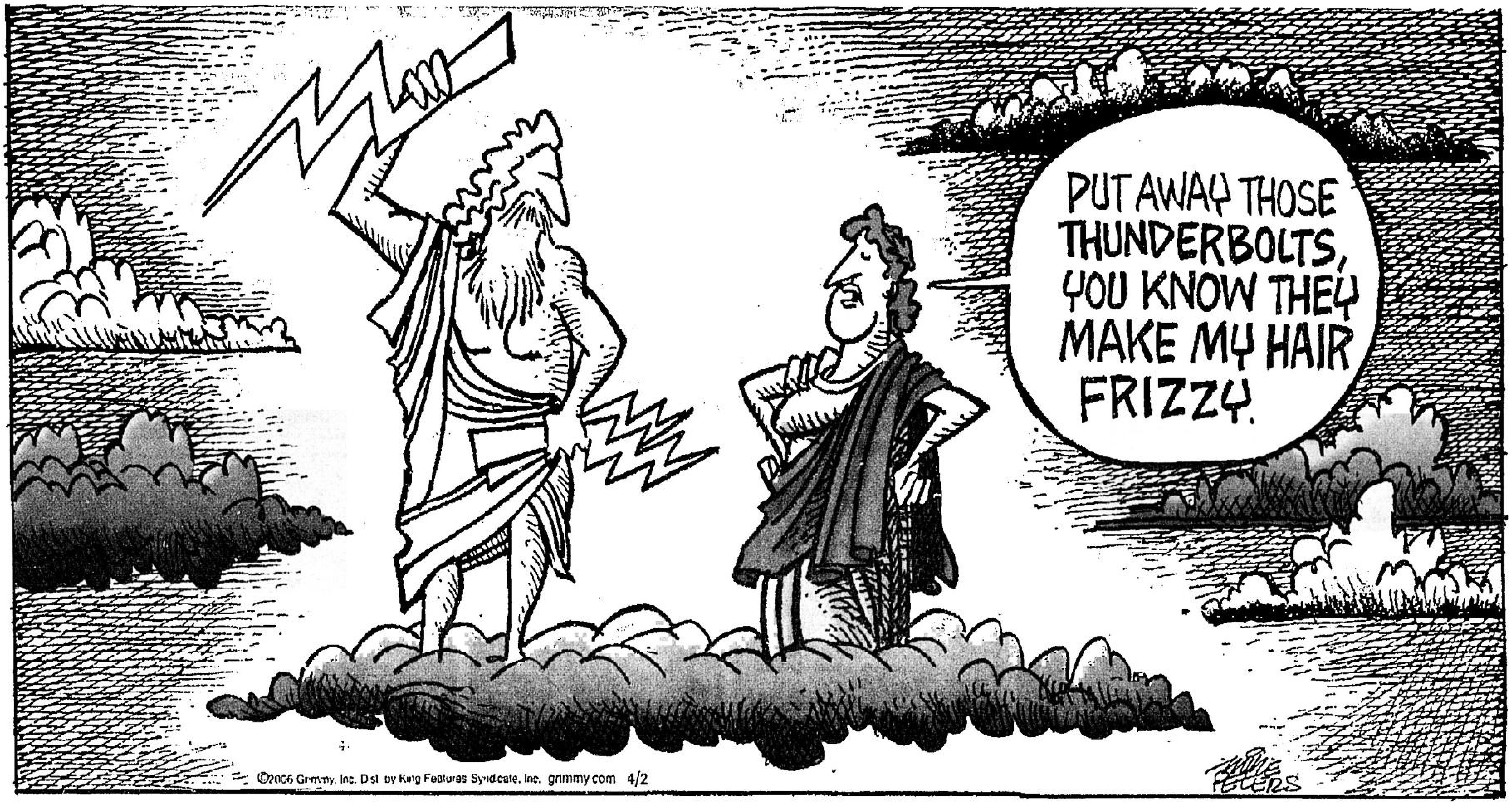
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
HINDI MUNA AKO PUPUTOK NGAYON.
NAIWAN KO 'YUNG EAR MUFFS KO E.
PWEDE KA NAMANG MAG-IMPROVISE NG EAR PLUGS E.
GANITO:
KUMUHA KA NG UPOS NG SIGARILYO.
KUNIN MO 'YUNG FILTER AT PATAKAN NG OIL.
TAPOS ISAKSAK MO SA TENGA MO.
GALING A. SA'N MO NATUTUNAN 'YAN.
GANYAN ANG GINAGAWA NAMIN SA FIELD NOONG MAG-COMBAT DUTY AKO SA COTABATO.
POL

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


PUT AWAY THOSE THUNDERBOLTS, YOU KNOW THEY MAKE MY HAIR FRIZZY.
MIKE PETERS

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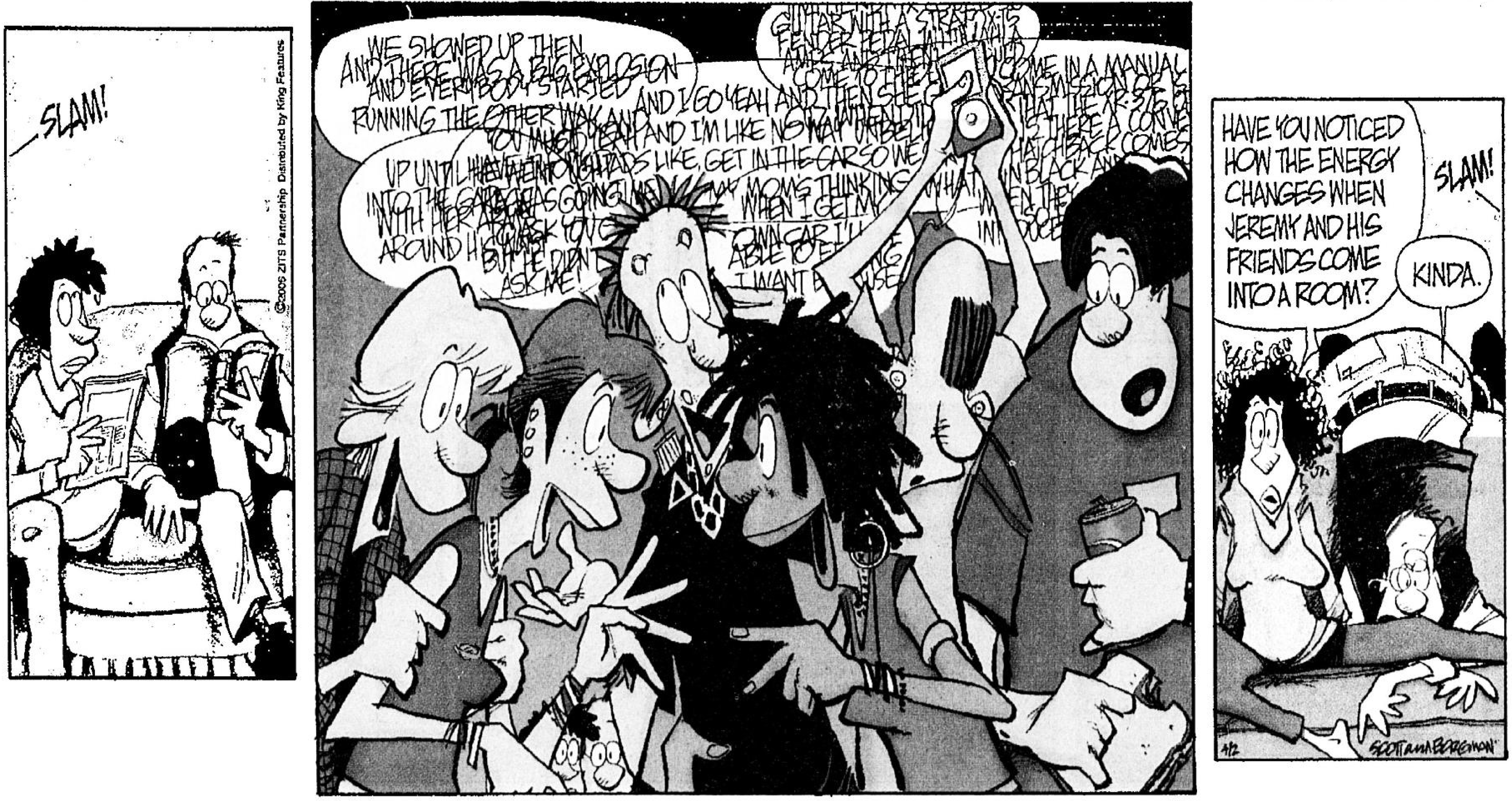
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


SLAM!
WE SHOWED UP THEN AND THERE WAS A BIG EXPLOSION AND EVERYBODY STARTED RUNNING THE OTHER WAY AND
AND I GO YEAH AND THEN SHE
AND I'M LIKE NO WAY UNBELI
UP UNTIL
INTO THE CAR
WITH HER ARM AROUND HIS
ASK YOU
BUT HE DIDN'T ASK ME!
LIKE, GET IN THE CAR SO WE
MOM'S THINKING
WHEN I GET MY OWN CAR I'LL
ABLE TO
I WANT
GUITAR WITH A STRAT X-15 FENDER PEDAL WITH
AMPS AND THEN
COME TO THE
COME IN A MANUAL TRANSMISSION OR
THAT THE XR-375
IS THERE A CONVE
HATCHBACK COMES IN BLACK AND
WHAT
WHEN THEY
INTRODUCE
HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW THE ENERGY CHANGES WHEN JEREMY AND HIS FRIENDS COME INTO A ROOM?
SLAM!
KINDA.
4/2
SCOTT AND BORGMAN

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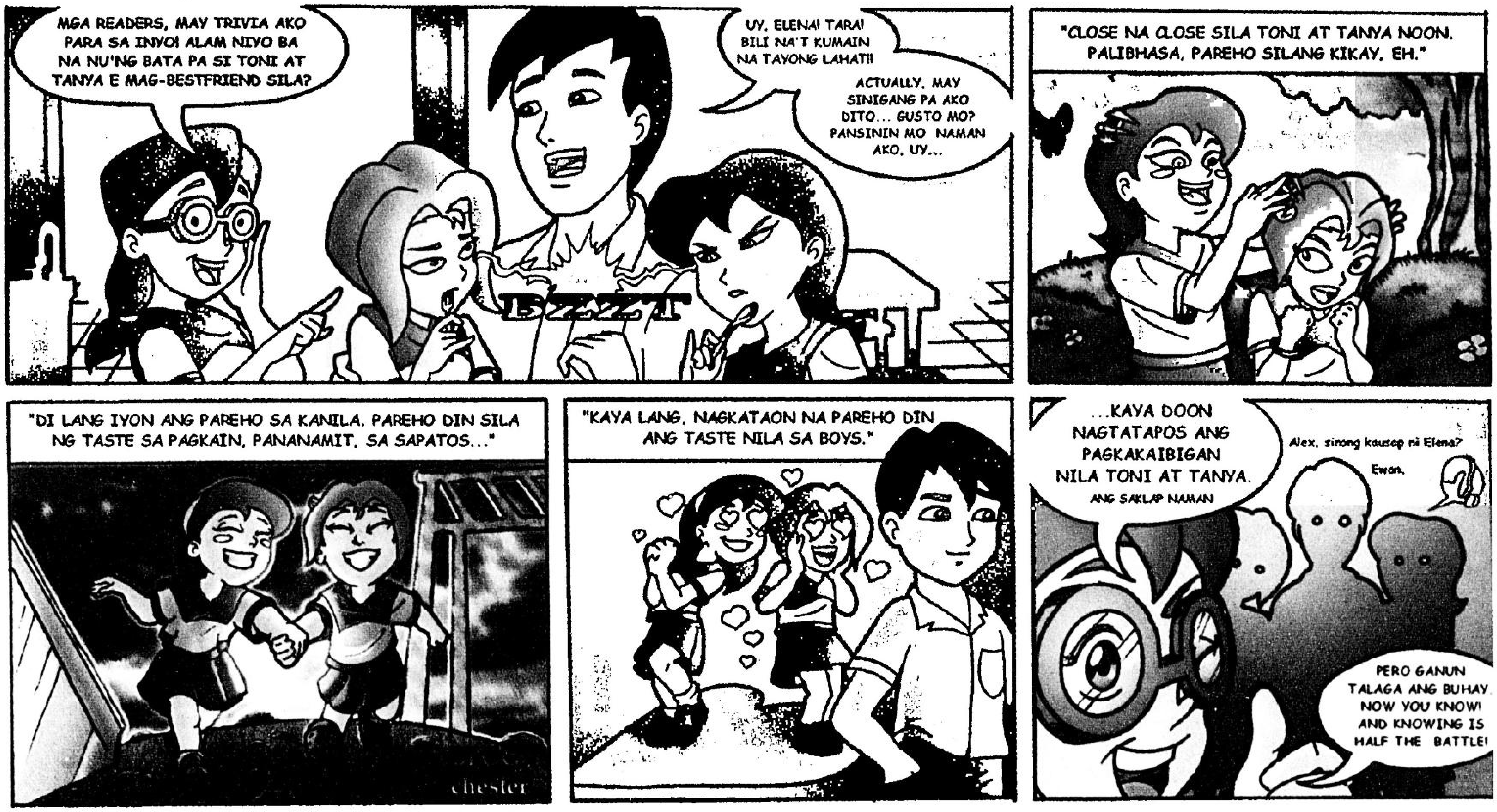
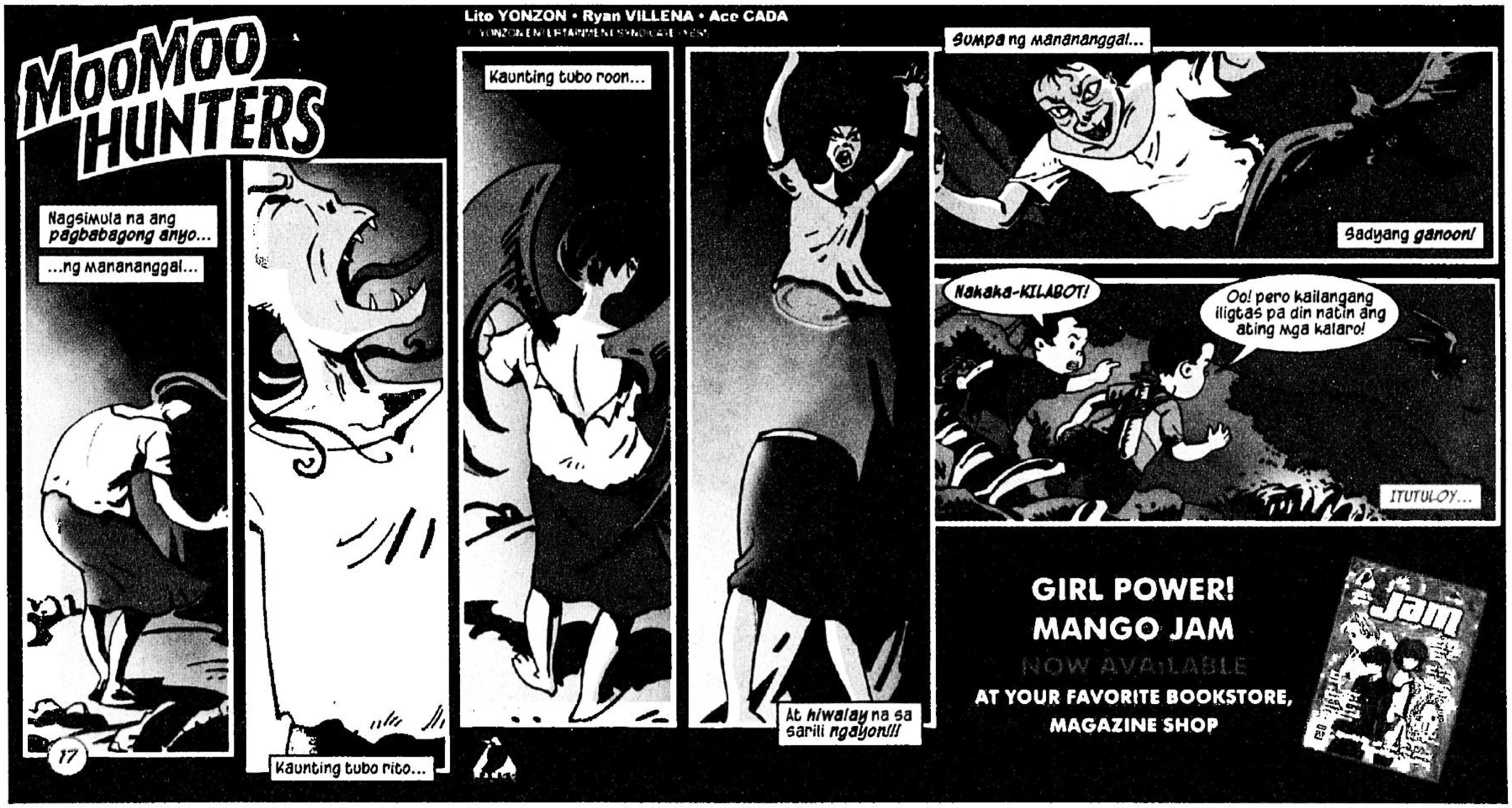
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


MGA READERS, MAY TRIVIA AKO PARA SA INYO! ALAM NIYO BA NA NU'NG BATA PA SI TONI AT TANYA E MAG-BESTFRIEND SILA?
UY, ELENA! TARA! BILI NA'T KUMAIN NA TAYONG LAHAT!!
ACTUALLY, MAY SINIGANG PA AKO DITO... GUSTO MO? PANSININ MO NAMAN AKO, UY...
BZZZT
"CLOSE NA CLOSE SILA TONI AT TANYA NOON. PALIBHASA, PAREHO SILANG KIKAY, EH."
"DI LANG IYON ANG PAREHO SA KANILA. PAREHO DIN SILA NG TASTE SA PAGKAIN, PANANAMIT, SA SAPATOS..."
chester
"KAYA LANG, NAGKATAON NA PAREHO DIN ANG TASTE NILA SA BOYS."
...KAYA DOON NAGTATAPOS ANG PAGKAKAIBIGAN NILA TONI AT TANYA.
ANG SAKLAP NAMAN
Alex, sinong kausap ni Elena?
Ewan.
PERO GANUN TALAGA ANG BUHAY. NOW YOU KNOW! AND KNOWING IS HALF THE BATTLE!

MOOMOO HUNTERS

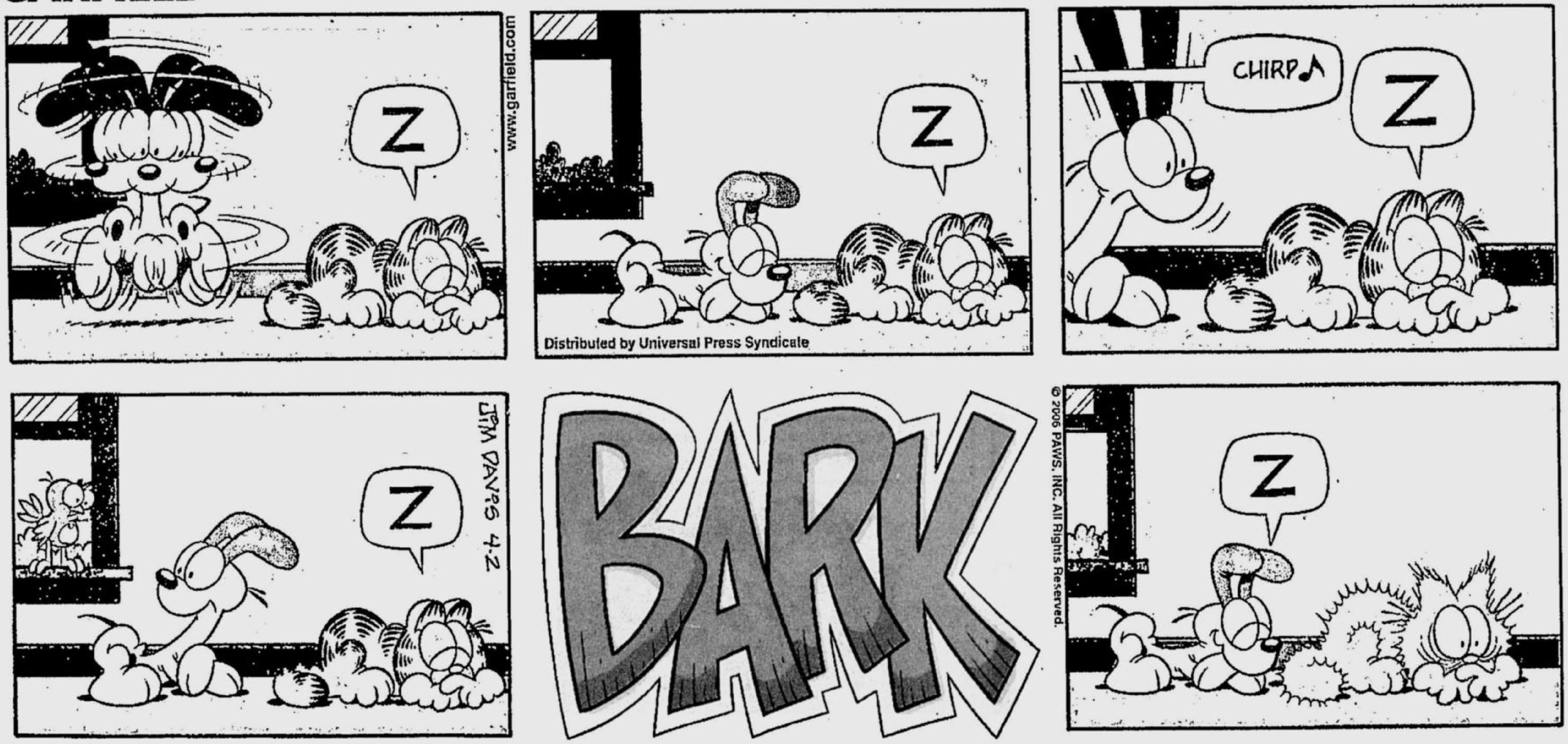
BY MANGO COMICS


MooMoo HUNTERS
Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA
© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES)
Nagsimula na ang pagbabagong anyo...
...ng manananggal...
17
Kaunting tubo rito...
Kaunting tubo roon...
At hiwalay na sa sarili ngayon!!!
Sumpa ng manananggal...
Sadyang ganoon!
Nakaka-KILABOT!
Oo! pero kailangang iligtas pa din natin ang ating mga kalaro!
ITUTULOY...
Jam

GIRL POWER!
MANGO JAM
NOW AVAILABLE
AT YOUR FAVORITE BOOKSTORE,
MAGAZINE SHOP

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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JIM DAVIS 4-2
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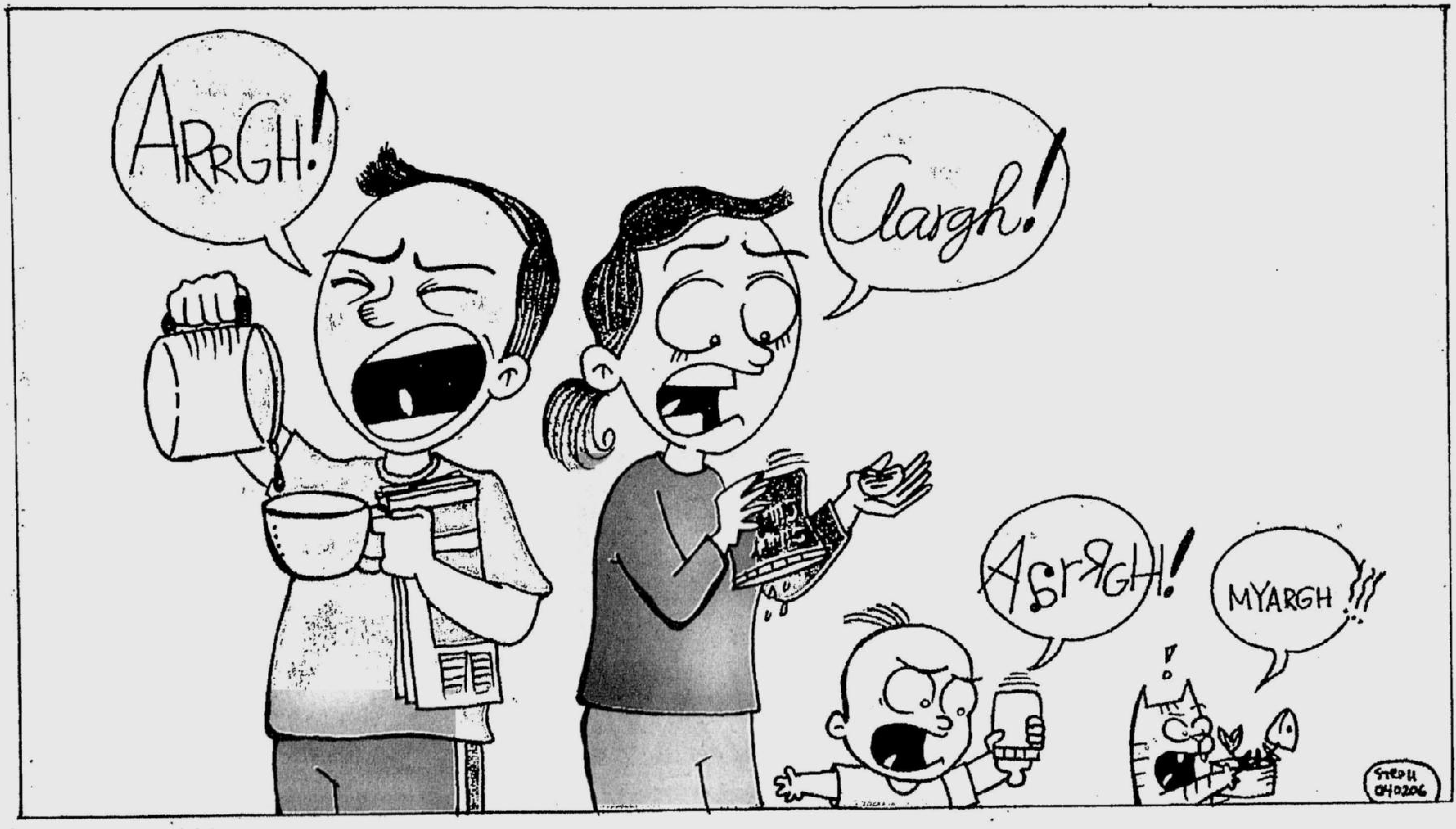
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


ARrGH!
Aargh!
AʁrЯGH!
MYARGH!!!
!
STEPH 040206

April 2, 2006
*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

M.Y.M.P.

All they wanted to do was Make (Your) their Momma Proud— now they're AT THE TOP OF THE CHARTS

With prodigious record sales and an upcoming US tour, Chin Alcantara and Juris Fernandez, otherwise known as M.Y.M.P., have arrived, and intend to stay atop the charts with the same attitude and work ethic that turned them into the no. 1 act today

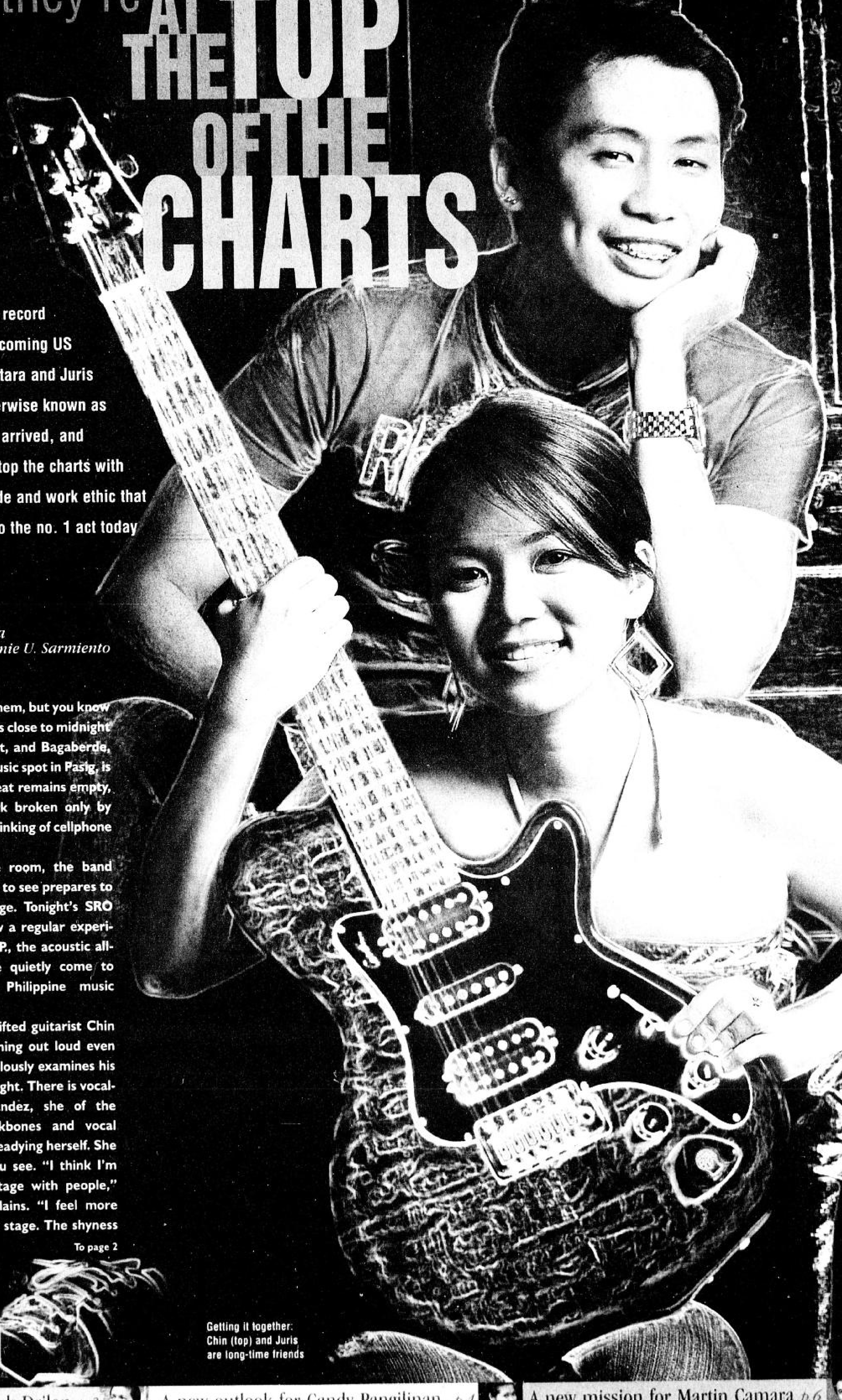
by Ruel S. De Vera
photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

YOU can't see them, but you know they're there. It's close to midnight on a Friday night, and Bagaberde, the white-hot music spot in Pasig, is packed. Not a seat remains empty, the restless dark broken only by the occasional blinking of cellphone screens.

In a separate room, the band they've all come to see prepares to take to the stage. Tonight's SRO crowd is by now a regular experience for M.Y.M.P., the acoustic all-stars who have quietly come to dominate the Philippine music scene.

Yet there is gifted guitarist Chin Alcantara, laughing out loud even while he meticulously examines his guitar for the night. There is vocalist Juris Fernandez, she of the exquisite cheekbones and vocal range, quietly readying herself. She is quite shy, you see. "I think I'm more shy off-stage with people," Fernandez explains. "I feel more comfortable on stage. The shyness goes away."

To page 2

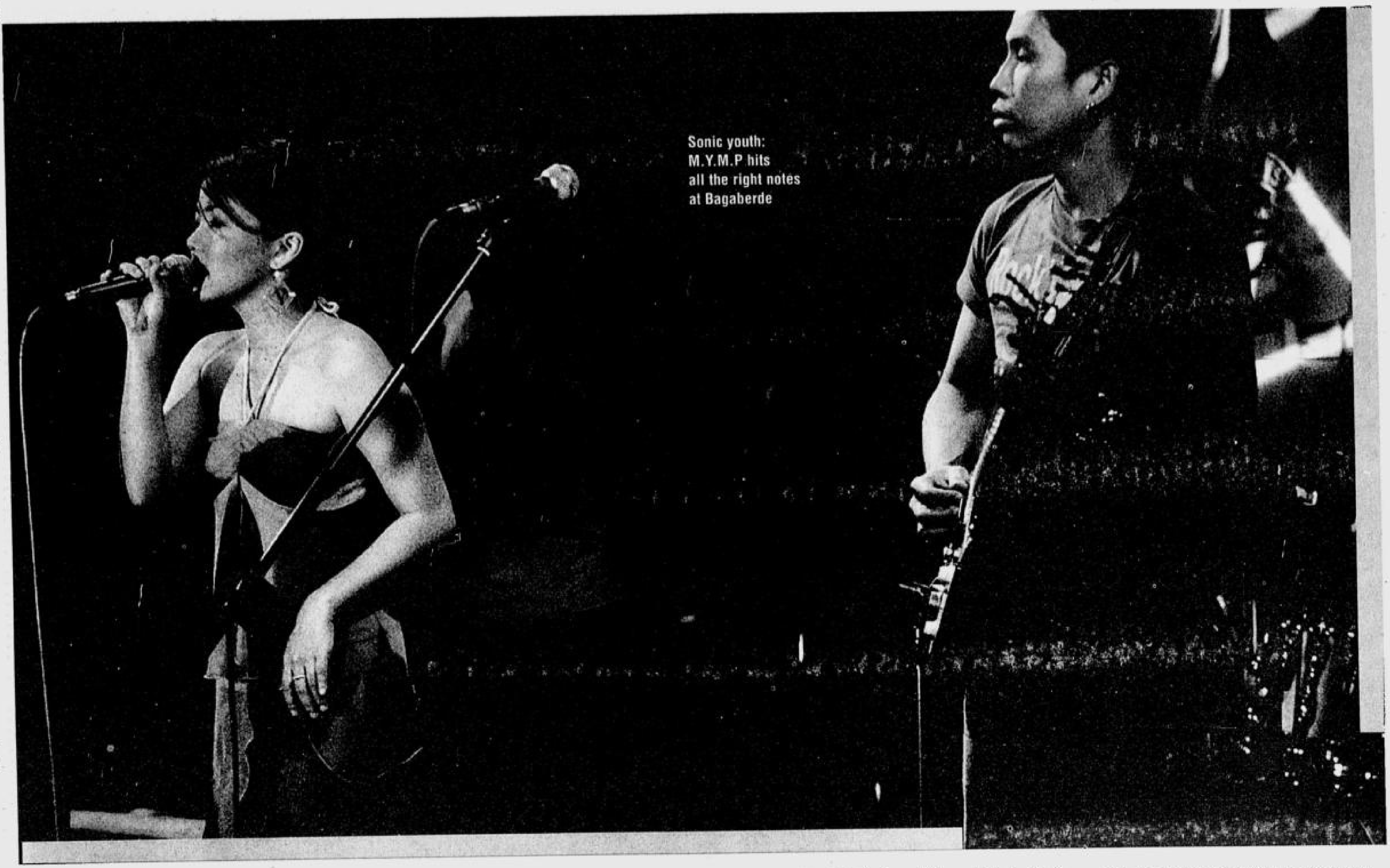


Getting it together: Chin (top) and Juris are long-time friends

A new life for Rock Drilon *p.3*

A new outlook for Candy Pangilinan *p.4*

A new mission for Martin Camara *p.6*



Sonic youth: M.Y.M.P hits all the right notes at Bagaberde

M.Y.M.P.

...from page 1

Words such as "purr," "lilt" and "velvet" are easily applied to Fernandez's voice. She wields it like a delicate but powerful instrument of precision, hitting notes exactly and effortlessly. This melds seamlessly with Alcantara's guitar work, displaying his ability to melt a song down and then reforge it in M.Y.M.P.'s signature style. It is the band's chimerical ability to play anything—*anything*—and still sound like M.Y.M.P. that has allowed them to outsell pretty much anyone else out there. Yet theirs has been an ascent that is far more adagio than allegro.

No formal training

There is an uncanny number of qualities shared by Alcantara and Fernandez. They both have virtually no formal musical training and, amazingly enough, cannot read sheet music. They describe themselves as homebodies, although that can also be a consequence of their superhuman gig schedule. "I just like staying home and sleeping," Alcantara says with a laugh.

What they do not share is a romantic connection. Despite working together closely and becoming instinctively complementary, musically speaking, Alcantara and Fernandez have never been involved and never plan to become so.

Jacques "Chin" Alcantara founded the band back in late 1996. It was Alcantara's elder brother Julius who gave the band its name. Alcantara's mother Stella had died of complications from breast cancer when Alcantara was 17. Back when it was originally formed, Make Your Momma Proud was a four-man rock band, whose arsenal included Jimi Hendrix, The Doors and, as Alcantara adds, a little Mr. Big. He was still a student at Miriam College then, taking up Communication Arts, major in Advertising. "My mom played the piano but she didn't get to see me play professionally—she did get to see me start out," Alcantara says. In the year after his mother died, Alcantara took up the guitar and, in his words, "really got obsessed with it and that's when I knew what I wanted to be, a musician."

Alcantara had tried going to a classical guitar teacher, but stopped after a month. "It wasn't for me," he explains. So Alcantara taught himself how to play.

"It was a long transition," he says. As a college band, M.Y.M.P. appeared in college fairs and shows, but as they became more earnest in their intent to pursue music as a career, they encountered difficulty in lining up gigs due to their repertoire. M.Y.M.P. added a keyboard player and began working on a more pop sound, completing the transformation with the addition of a female vocalist in 2000.

New female lead

That first lead vocalist was Marifil Niña Girado, better known today as R&B singer Nina after leaving the band to go solo. M.Y.M.P. then industriously performed in bars, clubs and shows for years, building an identity. In 2001, Alcantara was auditioning for a new female lead—and found one in someone he already knew.

Julie Iris "Juris" Fernandez went to Miriam as well, taking up Psychology in the hopes of becoming a doctor like her mother Juliet. Originally from Davao, Fernandez explains she didn't grow up exposed to music on a regular basis. "It's only now that I sing a lot." Like Alcantara, Fernandez did not study music formally for long, eschewing the training to learn on her own. After graduating from Miriam, Fernandez was studying at the Ateneo, working towards completing her pre-med requirements when she decided that, like Alcantara, she wanted to immerse herself in music. After singing with Jimmy Bondoc, she fatefully auditioned for M.Y.M.P.

It was the trio of Alcantara, Fernandez and percussionist Mike Manahan that established the beachhead for M.Y.M.P.'s frontal assault on the sales and radio charts. "When we released our first album, it reached platinum in seven months because we really worked hard to promote it with gigs. It was the second album that happened quickly," Alcantara says.

As the band steadily built its following, it underwent one more shakeup when Manahan left the band in 2003 due to what Alcantara called "professional differences" as well as fallout from Manahan's breakup with Fernandez; the two were in a relationship for a while. Manahan now appears in a band named Michaelangelo with his brother.

Packing Araneta

Taken under the wing of producer and radio brain Raymond Ryan, M.Y.M.P. released the Little Album That Could, "Soulful Acoustic," under Ivory Records in 2003. This debut album, together with M.Y.M.P.'s follow-up "Versions & Beyond" has sold over 200,000 copies in a marketplace surrounded by piracy. This was a blitzkrieg bolstered by original singles like "A Little Bit" and "Get Me" as well as covers of "Waiting in Vain" (Annie Lennox), "Every Little Thing" (Sting) and "Especially for You" (Jason Donovan and Kylie Minogue). They did bar after bar and venue after venue. Yet their spectacular run continued.

This is, after all, a band that sold out the cavernous Araneta Coliseum—twice. That's more than 10,000 people per show.

What was on display during those major concerts, as well as in the endless TV appearances, is the band's playful and tuneful craft. Aside from Alcantara's and Fernandez's almost telepathic musical coordination, it has the ability to transcend the nature of covers. Far from being canned regurgitations of Top 40 staples, M.Y.M.P.'s songlist is eclectic and speaks of their adaptability—easy listening pop with nothing dangerous, hymns of heartbreak and just the right amount of goofing around thrown in. It's perfect *barkada* music, the mixtape as masterpiece. It is M.Y..M.P.'s ability to woo both their core audience of latte-sipping, iPod-wielding romantics and others beyond it that has sent them on this trajectory.

A dream fulfilled

Now backed by keyboardist Edward Jimenez, percussionist Dexter John Angeles and bassist Aimiel Rivas, M.Y.M.P. embarks on its most ambitious career step yet: a summer tour of the US West and East coasts, a development that excites Alcantara and Fernandez immensely. "It was a dream we were thinking of fulfilling maybe five years from now," Alcantara says of their hot streak. "I definitely didn't think this would happen," Fernandez chimes in. Alcantara hopes to be working on their next album once they return home from the tour.

The incandescent success has made the duo stars, something proven by the fact that they now get recognized when they're out. Fernandez, for one, says she's still in the process of getting used to it all.

In a scene littered with shards of broken vinyl and the carcasses of once-hot, now long-gone bands, M.Y.M.P. now faces the challenge of ensuring their own longevity. The first part comes with sticking together, something that doesn't seem to be a problem. "I really don't think about going solo," Fernandez says. "I started my career as a recording artist with M.Y.M.P. and it will end with M.Y.M.P."

Another comes with continuing to evolve as a band. For now, Alcantara finds no issue with the fact that they do a whole lot of covers. "For now, we like playing other artists' songs because that's what we were doing before we became recording artists. But of course, every artist's dream is to create something of their own. We hope that one day we can create an all-original album."

Good musicians

In the midst of the endless gigs and the preparations for their tour, Alcantara says he hasn't really thought about what comes next. This weekend, M.Y.M.P. plays in Cebu to what will certainly be an expectant and excited sell-out.

And nobody, nobody makes fun of what seems to be their incongruous name. "The name was really an attitude," he explains. "I couldn't be a good doctor or a good lawyer, but I could be a good musician." And that's what they're about: "Whatever we do, let's just make our mommas proud." Now, the name has evolved into a tribute for all the band members' parents. "It's for all their patience and support for us even if they originally had other career preferences for us."

The night runs deeper and it's almost time to go on. Now, M.Y.M.P. must dazzle an audience that sits in the soothing darkness, something they must do again tomorrow and perhaps the day after. No matter. Alcantara had just turned 31 the week before, and at midnight, it would be Fernandez's 28th birthday. The crowd takes a deep breath. It's M.Y.M.P.'s turn, and the party's just starting.

For more information about M.Y.M.P., log on to http://www.mympband.com.

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Editor in Chief **Alya B. Honasan**
Managing Editor **Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**
Associate Editor **Ruel S. De Vera**
Staff Writer **Eric S. Caruncho**
Graphic Designer **Chuchie Quevedo-See**
Design Consultant **Lynett A. Villariba**
Editorial Assistant **Sharon M. Felipe**
Advertising & Sales Manager **Kenny Nuyda**

THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr_sim@inquirer.com.ph.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

I am greatly dismayed by your feature story on Mark Jimenez (**SIM**, March 12, 2006). That was clearly what some people call a "praise release." You wrote about his prison experience and how he (legally) accumulated his wealth in Latin America. But there was nary a mention of his role as Erap's "packager" of multi-million business deals such as the Equitable-PCI Bank merger and the buyout of PLDT from Tony Boy Cojuangco by the First Pacific Group, among others, accomplishments that prompted Erap to call him a "corporate genius." It's no secret that Jimenez and his cahoots in Malacañang made millions and millions from these transactions.

You promised us that you would regularly feature "feel good" stories—tales of ordinary people who contribute to the community and who excel despite tremendous odds. Does Mark Jimenez fall within this parameter? Are we so bereft of people who could stand up as models for the youth?

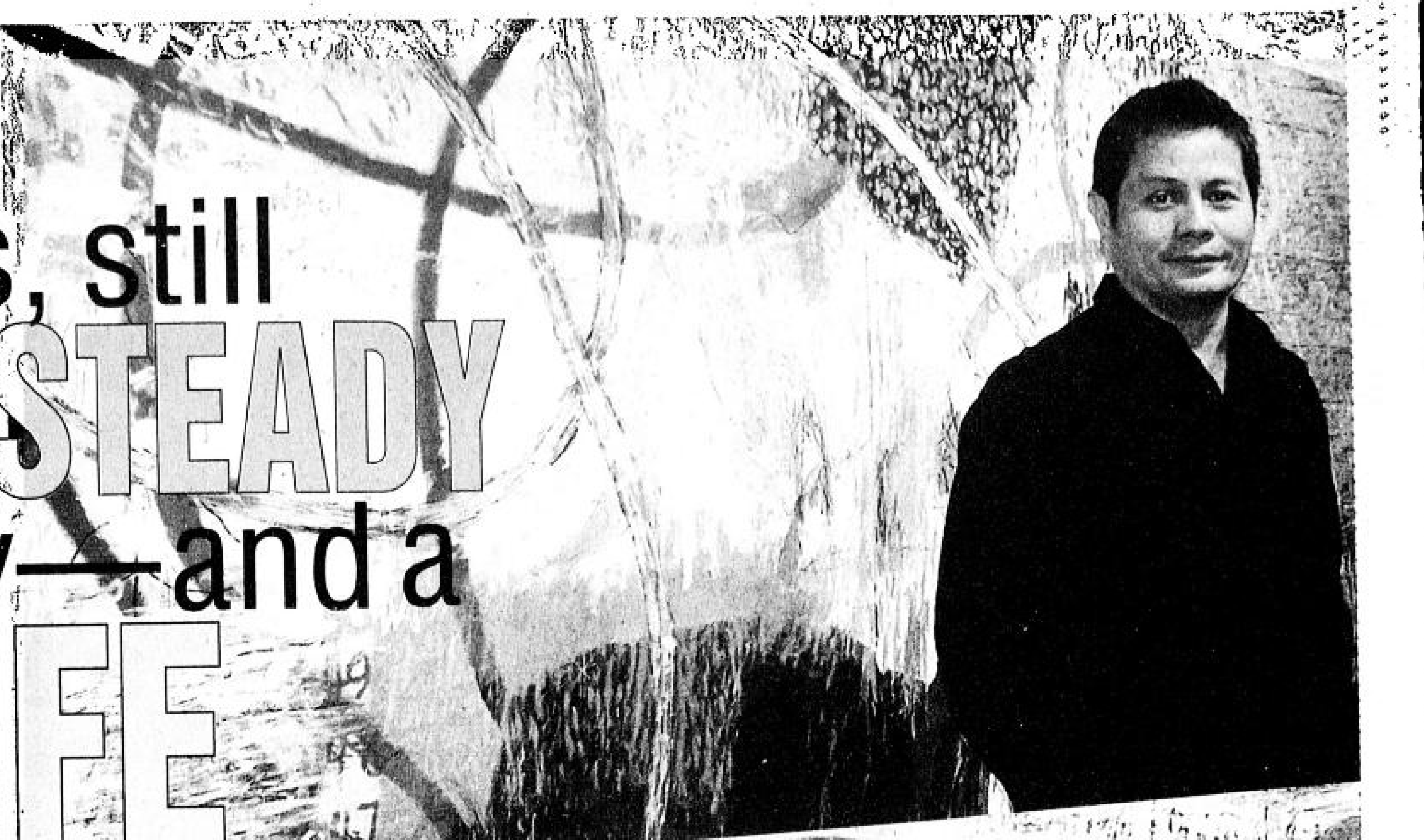
I am tempted to ask: Was money involved in the Jimenez story? What's this story I hear that Jimenez has a PR consultant, a certain Mr. Fernandez? I believe the decision to write about Jimenez and the go-signal to give him so much space were not purely harmless or objective editorial discretions. Rather I would like to believe that all this was the work of Mr. Fernandez. That Jimenez story was a PR piece to project Jimenez as a "decent" person who needs our understanding. Now I am inclined to believe coffee shop talk that Jimenez is eyeing a senatorial post in the next elections. I recall seeing a few months ago in your Across the Nation section a photo of Jimenez in Bukidnon where he was reportedly doing charity work. I suggest you do a quiet investigation on how widespread and pernicious the influence of this Mr. Fernandez is on your editorial staff. I am told that this same PR guy also counts among his clients Winston Garcia, Angelo Reyes, Leandro Mendoza, Loren Legarda and Richard Gordon. Shame on the INQUIRER for allowing itself to be used in what the headline calls the "resurrection" of Jimenez.

G. MARQUEZ
marquezdegabriel@yahoo.com

Artwatch

by Gina Abuyuan
photographs by Rodel Rotoni

Without Ces, still ROCKING STEADY in his gallery—and a NEW LIFE



Painter and gallery director Rock Drilon opens up for the first time about his estrangement from wife Ces, and how he funneled his pain into making his vision for "the perfect café" and the Mag:Net Plus Art Triangle a reality

BEFORE he answers any questions, Rock Drilon—painter, composer, and director of Mag:net Galleries (the "art side" of the Mag:net Plus triangle of the Katipunan, ABS-CBN, and Paseo de Roxas branches)—orders a glass of wine. Heck, he orders two.

"So I can loosen up," he says, stretching his neck. The anxiety is understandable. He's mounting an exhibit the following week, has just re-launched Mag:net Café Katipunan as a gallery "for changing exhibitions" (that's "regular exhibitions" for non-art folk), and it's the first time he's speaking to the media about his widely-publicized estrangement from wife, anchorwoman and TV personality Ces Drilon.

The two keep close communication about Mag:net and the children. Married for 19 years, it's no easy bond to break. "Someone forwarded to me some blind item about Ces," he volunteers, "and I think it was very unfair to Ces. We don't discuss with people what happened to us. The process of our separation was guided by a professional, and we both believe it's in the best interest of the business and the kids. So even in this situation, we continue to be partners in our commonalities, the kids and the business. It's also a struggle but I think we're getting there. Getting better and better. We're friends. Because we know that's for the best."

It's almost ironic that he's giving the interview in Mag:net Café, "the most complete of what Ces and I envisioned Mag:net Plus to be," Rock says. Both have been very vocal about how they've always wanted to run a store like Mag:net Plus, which carries everything the couple loves: books, magazines, music, art. "Then now you have the café," he continues. "An active, living, breathing space where artists, audiences, teachers, students meet."

Monday nights are upcoming band nights; Tuesday, Musician's Musician's Nights ("MMN—no genre, as long as they're musicians admired by other musicians"); Wednesdays, jazz; Thursdays feature Silly People's Improv Theatre; Fridays, established artists; and Saturdays are Campusition Nights, which has become a sort of advocacy for Rock Drilon and his faith in the musical talents of students from different universities. "For one thing, it's also a way to provide a venue for talents around the area. Ateneo alone has 60 bands. I think artists without a venue are dangerous people," he adds with a laugh.

Showing off

The response to Campusition Nights has been enormous. Up to four bands get to show off every Saturday, and these aren't just from the Katipunan area. There's even a band from Assumption, Rock relates, who, in true Assumptionista form, have *yayas* and drivers waiting for them after their gig. "Anyone can play," he explains. "The only rule is, they play original compositions." It's a component of Mag:net Café that Rock's quite proud of, along with re-organizing the first floor, which has the book and magazine section in a nook in the back, and the wider hall as a gallery. He's also added a "CR Gallery" in the—yes, you guessed it—loo upstairs.

He laughs hard when asked what exactly "CR" means. "Comfort Room? Chabet's Room? Ces Room?" Then he explains: "It started actually when we had Chabet's work there for almost a year. That work was actually sold, but the collector never really came back to get it, so on the day we returned it to Chabet, it was like there was something lacking in the room. So it gave me an idea. Why not make this (the CR) a venue? And more than anything, I think it's cute, you know. It doesn't lack programming. Every month it changes.

"We have a stable of about 70 artists, some of them students, some emerging, and some established," he says. "But even with the ABS and Paseo branches, you could only exhibit around 24 artists a year. So what happens to the others? But with the CR gallery, we just might be able to exhibit all the artists in our stable. With the completion of the Mag:net art triangle of ABS, Paseo, and Katipunan, I could claim that Mag:net Galleries have the most number of shows in a year. Over 50 shows a year."

In limbo

Indeed, it looks like Rock Drilon's got it altogether—a far cry from last year, when he and Ces went public with their separation. The direction of the Mag:net galleries was in limbo, and in the art circle, tongues wagged about how devastated Rock was—so devastated that he just packed up and left, leaving behind his duties as gallery director.

"My leaving for the US was actually planned," Rock explains. But it was also fraught with uncertainty, and he dealt with it like a good manager would. "I said goodbye to the employees, one by one. I told them there might be a change in management or leadership. But what's important is that we're committed to the vision of Mag:net. I also talked to the kids and my partners." Orrie, his eldest, is 19 and already sits on the board.

Rock's sabbatical would last up to three months. "I said I'd be away for a month minimum, and three months maximum. To look at myself. Go through the process of healing because it wouldn't be possible here. I felt like I was disintegrating and if I continued to stay, sooner or later, that kind of state of mind would be reflected in everything that I do, whether in parenting or heading an organization." He was also frustrated about how the galleries in the ABS-CBN and Paseo de Roxas branches weren't aligned.

He couldn't express his pain here, he says. "In the US, I could talk to people about it without worrying about the implications. Even if I talked to chosen friends here, it's different. So for three months in the States, I was able to do that." Rock talked, Rock painted. He rented a friend's studio in Brooklyn and produced the series of paintings included in the recently-concluded "Recent Paintings," Rock's first solo exhibit since 2004, which opened on his birthday two weeks ago. Art critic Lisa Ito calls the collection, which features "lines and undulations into loops, circles, and masses…an entire journey into the eventual unraveling of self."

Clearing the cobwebs

He also got to clear the cobwebs in his head, and when he came back, was ready to take over the galleries at ABS-CBN and Paseo de Roxas, and came up with the idea of the aforementioned CR Gallery. "So when I came back, sure enough, I was stronger; my mind was clearer. And though it was still a struggle, the coping had progression, compared to when I left. So now, I think… it's good. It's not perfect yet, but at least I can say I'm healthy and I'm in the right mind to assume what I'm taking care of, whether it's the business or the kids."

The artist who balances both creativity and business sense is rare. Rock is one of them, though he begs to disagree. "I'm not. Between the both of us, Ces is better at business. She's a natural," he says. He's more of a visionary. She and his business partners provided the balance. "I'm still developing that business side of me after the separation."

After any break up, Rock surmises, "your first instinct is to find a replacement because you lost something that the other originally has—and vice versa. I went through that. It was devastating, because you can never really find a replacement. So if ever a separation happens, you have to learn to develop what was in her that's not in you. And that's what I'm learning now. It's not going to happen overnight, but that's the direction I'm tackling. And I hope for the same for her also."

In his element

Last March 13, Rock turned 50 and opened "Recent Paintings." The party starts early, with the usual suspects present and ready to party: progressive artist and University of the East Fine Arts Dean Gerry Tan, sculptor Reg Yuson, painters Pablo Biglang Awa and Nilo Ilarde, and a lot more.

A little before 8 p.m., poet Vim Nadera comes out dressed in black garbage bags and hands out pink toilet paper with something political scribbled on it. His performance, which consists of a drummer and him reading the papers in Mag:net's "poet alcove," ends 40 minutes later. More well-wishers from all walks of the art scene trickle in: Grace Nono, Gilda Cordero-Fernando, SPIT performers Beepsie Mayuga-Mercado and Gabe Mercado. Upstairs, upcoming bands mingle with old.

The stress from a week before is gone; Rock goes around, visibly in his element. This is his vision come alive, even when he himself almost "disintegrated." "This is the perfect café concept," he says. "It's not just CDs—the musicians that make the CDs, they perform here. It's not just books—the authors that write them, they read here. And the visual artists—they get drunk here!" he laughs. But Rock goes around sans wine glass. He's okay. He's at home. Q

Theater Tales

For this comedienne, learning to love herself after heartbreak was no laughing matter

After her young marriage fell apart and she was left alone to raise her baby, there would be days when she'd be sobbing backstage and laughing onstage. But as Candy Pangilinan eventually learned, being happy is a decision—and finding joy in your heart is a gift

by Alya B. Honasan

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

NY WRITER who thinks she can interview Candy Pangilinan without a tape recorder is in for a spin. The bubbly comedienne of TV, film and live shows talks like a machine gun on Red Bull, releasing round after round of one-liners in the same deadpan manner, a gift of comic delivery that helped her clinch last year's Aliw Award for the best female comedy act.

And then there's the repeat of her successful Valentine's show, "Candy's Be Love?", set for April 8 at the Music Museum. "Love has no occasion, *di ba?*" she says of the timing. "People fall in love and get hurt, women go crazy. But more importantly, it's about loving yourself."

I was ready for the verbal onslaught, as I've known 33-year-old Candy since her college days, when she and her contemporaries from the college of theater arts of the University of the Philippines (UP), like comedienne Eugene Domingo and director Andoy Ranay (still her close friends), made the backstage of the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater their second home. As one of many for whom theater means Dulaang UP and the one and only Professor Tony Mabesa, I've seen Candy hammer together props and help squeeze people (yours truly included) into costumes. I've also seen her do drama, so I've long known that there's much more to this manic, cute-as-a-button stand-up performer than the general public realizes.

Depth of character

It's a depth of character that was severely tested in the last couple of years, when Candy's young marriage came to a painful and public end. But more on that later.

Now managed by Dondon Monteverde, Candy started out in showbusiness some 12 years ago, playing Lorna Tolentino on the TV satire "*Abangan Ang Susunod na Kabanata.*" That was followed by a regular appearance on the comedy show "Mixed Nuts." The funny part is, she didn't really plan on doing comedy. "It just so happened that was what was available," she says with a laugh. "But I think that's what people see as my natural self. I've never been prim and proper."

Her first actual brush with showbusiness, however, was more auspicious. Just in the second year of her theater arts course in UP, Candy dropped by the shoot of the film "*Dito Sa Pitong Gatang*" to bring her friend Harlene Bautista a pair of socks on the set. There she caught the attention of no less than Fernando Poe Jr. himself. "FPJ saw me, asked if I ate already, and I said no, so he fed us. Then he asked me, 'Are you working?' I said, 'No, and as a matter fact I can act, so please hire me!'" FPJ laughed and said there were no more roles available, but with characteristic gumption, Candy insisted that Harlene's character needed some friends in the picture. Two days later, she was called to the set to shoot. "It was only when I was in front of the cameras that it finally sank in that, oh my God, it really was FPJ."

Mischievous girl

Candy knew she wanted to be a performer as early as age 4, she recalls. She was born in Manila, the third of four kids brought up by single mother Dori Pangilinan, an interior designer. Her father had died when Candy was only 8, but although her brother was a virtual father figure to her, being 10 years her senior, Candy still found herself striving, "to prove something to myself and to my mother. It was a happy childhood, though. *Hindi naman ako nakasuot ng sako o nagtutulak ng kariton* (I wasn't dressed in burlap or pushing carts)."

She was a mischievous girl, enough to get kicked out of Maryknoll High School after she forged a signature for a classmate's exam permit. "See? I was just trying to help her. I'm a nice person *naman, eh.*"

Graduating from St. Paul's, she enrolled in theater arts at UP, unbeknownst to her mother, who thought she was in a business course in La Salle. "I knew I wanted to be an actress, but I didn't know I would be in the mainstream. I was just thinking of theater, and I knew even then that it wouldn't be lucrative, but that was okay with me." Her mother only found out when Candy invited her to a performance at UP, and Mabesa introduced Candy as one of the freshmen of the college of theater arts. "My mom didn't get mad, but I saw her sigh in the audience, like she was saying, '*Hay naku,* I really cannot stop this girl.'"

Candy remains close to her mom, from whom, she believes, she inherited her comic timing. "She says the funniest things even with a poker face." Her own trademark style, Candy says, is combination of "my candor, and lots of prayer. The reason I'm here is because of *lakas ng loob* (guts), although I really enjoy performing." Mabesa's most memorable advice to her? "When going for something, always aim for the highest. That's why whenever he asked me what grade I thought I deserved, I always said, '1'." Candy is a thesis shy of her diploma.

Rock bottom

In 2001, Candy married her boyfriend of seven years. In 2003, she gave birth to son Quentin. A month after their son was born, her husband left her for another woman. "He was already telling me he was going to leave when I was pregnant, so I was really stressed," she says. "He said I wasn't a good person, and I was insane and paranoid because of my suspicions that he was having an affair. The worst part was, I believed him for a while." So much, that she actually had herself psychiatrically tested, and was skeptical when doctors told her she was normal. "Then someone saw him in a movie theater with another woman, so I knew I wasn't crazy or imagining things."

Rock bottom, Candy recounts, was when she realized she was alone, had no work, was "super fat" and had no money. "I wasn't sure anymore if it was post-partum depression or regular depression." Candy would have had a breakdown, she admits, if not for her family and friends. "Also, I just kept thinking that there was nothing I could do. I've never been the type to make *babad* (wallow), although it was really hard to get out of this one. It wasn't funny anymore—*nagiging* horror movie *na!*"

With the help of a counselor, Candy learned to see things in the right perspective. "Being happy is more of a decision," she says. So in less than a year, she was back to work, to jobs that were thankfully just waiting for her. "It was hard—fighting the anxiety, and explaining to people what happened. And I cried on my friends! They would come to my house to eat, and I'd cry while they watched TV and just listened, and then they'd tell me to go to sleep after I had tired myself out. Nobody really babied me."

A gift

Candy sought succor in sleep and watching cartoons, because "everything else would make me cry. You know how it is, when everything has a meaning? I'd see a Jollibee commercial, and I would cry. I cried in front of the mirror, until I got sick and tired of it." She developed a virtual split personality, sobbing backstage and then laughing onstage, until her counselor gave her a wonderful explanation. "*Sinabi niya,* that's how you know you have a gift. When a gift is given to you, the gift never changes no matter how you change." It was also her counselor who advised Candy to forgive and move on. "The forgiveness was

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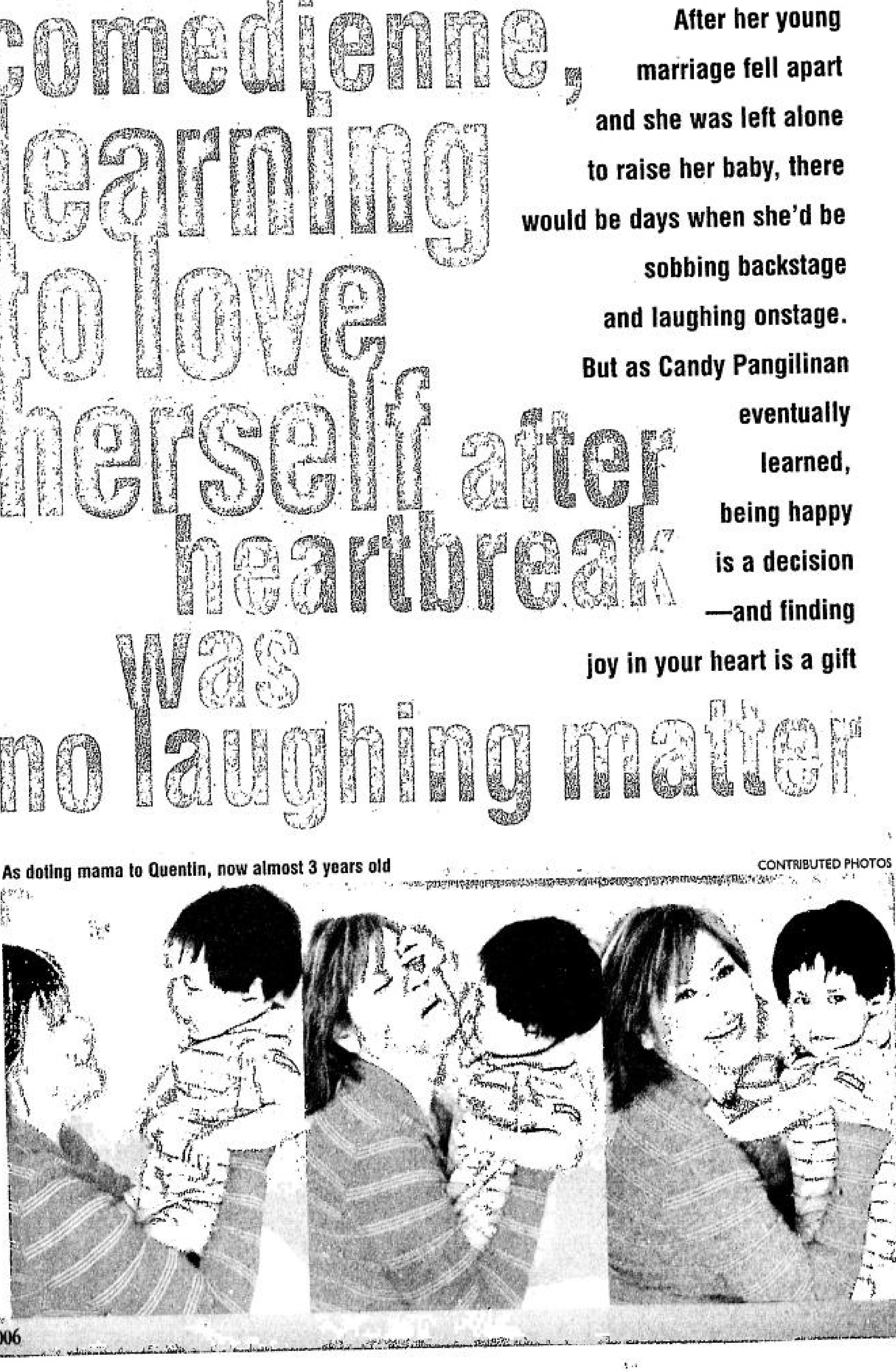


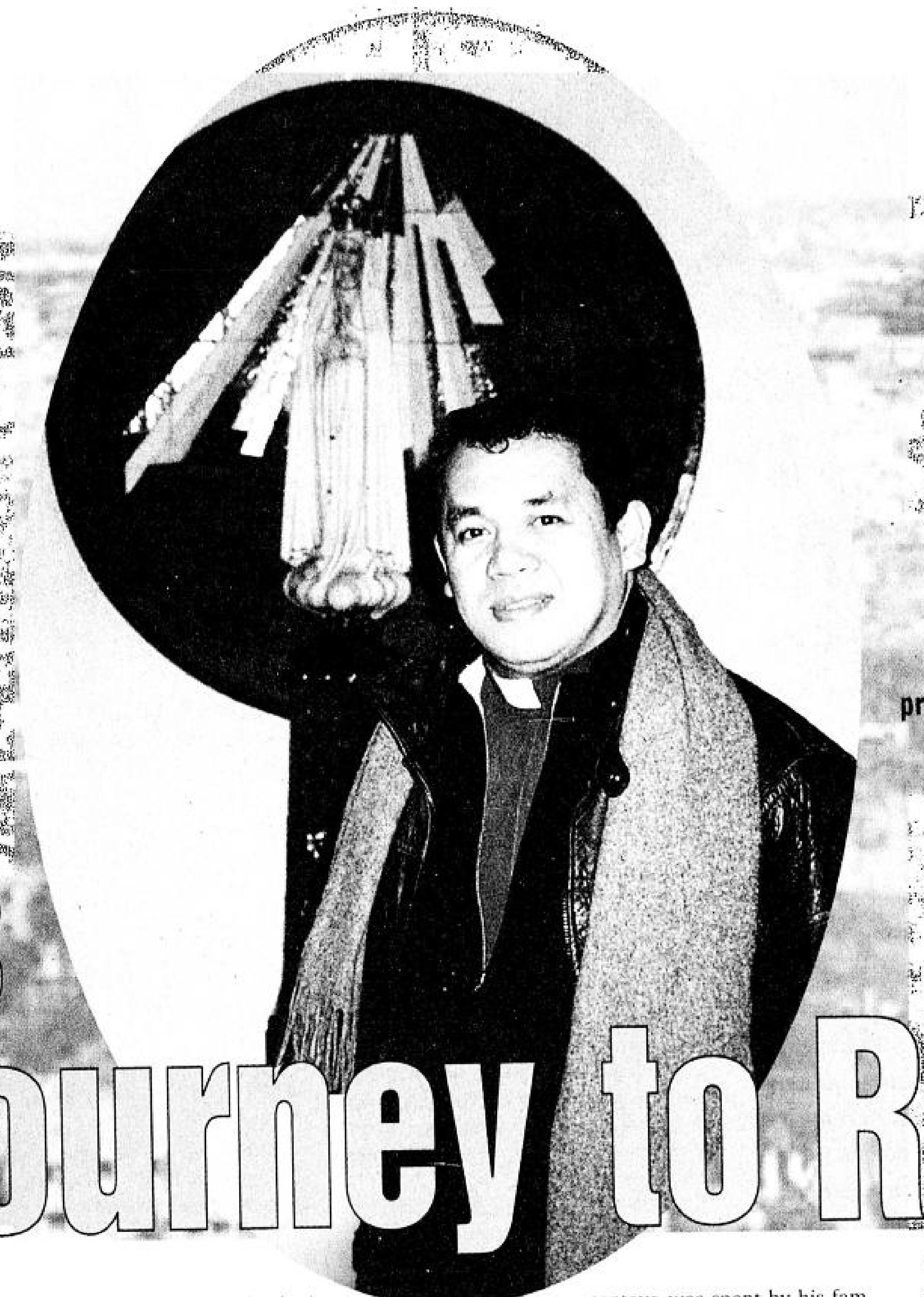
As doting mama to Quentin, now almost 3 years old

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

People of the Faith

by Corazon A. Ong

photographs by Elizabeth Lasagna



The good father's long journey to Rome

For Fr. Jess Maraño, the first Asian and Filipino priest to head a parish in the diocese of Rome, the road to his vocation was rough, yet it was also full of remarkable coincidences and unexpected blessings

S AN education major in college, Fr. Jesus M. Maraño, or simply Fr. Jess, did a class report on Rome, which impressed his professor so much he was exempted from taking the finals. Coming from a poor family in Anislag, Daraga, Albay, Fr. Jess never entertained the idea that he would one day set foot in Rome, much less make history by being appointed the first Asian and Filipino priest to head a parish in the Diocese of Rome.

Did his appointment surprise him in any way? "Everyone was surprised. The *Concordato* (agreement) between the Holy See and the Republic of Italy, forged in 1929 and renewed in 1984, states that, with the exception of Rome, all parishes in Italy must be headed by Italian citizens," Fr. Jess says. "You could say I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time, but the post entails a big responsibility."

The eldest son and second in a family of seven, he was not particularly keen on studying. He had red marks in his high school report card, and often had to attend make-up classes. "I did not want to study, and I was a *pasaway* (brat), so my father would punch me, and my mother would run after me with a stick while shouting, '*Hesus ka pa naman*' (And to think your name is Jesus)," he recalls with amusement.

His baptismal name was Romeo, but being a sickly child, his parents, upon the insistence of his grandfather, decided to change it to Jesus. "There is this custom in my province that when a child gets sickly in the first year of life, the child's name is changed. Besides, I was also born on December 25."

Providential

Looking back, Fr. Jess believes that everything that happened to him was providential. "Despite my aversion to schooling, my parents never wavered in their decision to make me finish my studies, and I will always be grateful for that," he says. Apart from his parents, he also credits a classmate who spurred him to give his best in his studies. "She was so good in class, I was encouraged to do no less." They would be sweethearts until the day he entered the seminary.

His father, Antonio, was a foreman who passed away in 2000. He would often bring his son to the construction site. "I washed stones and helped make hollow blocks," Fr. Jess adds. His mother, Edna, a dressmaker, died in 2003, but not before visiting her son thrice in Rome and meeting his parishioners, who were generous enough to provide her plane ticket each time she came to Italy. A most memorable visit, no doubt, was in 2000, when her son brought her to the Vatican for an audience with Pope John Paul II.

He does not remember getting any call from God to join the priesthood, but when he was about 16, and without the knowledge of his girlfriend and his parents, Fr. Jess found himself spending more and more of his free time visiting the sick in the Albay Provincial Hospital.

"To gain life, you have to give life, so I would visit the sick and talk with them. What little I could spare, maybe one or two pesos, I would give to some of them. Sometimes, if they could not hold on to it, I would leave the money under their pillows. The experience brought me so much joy, I'd leave the hospital on cloud nine. The joy was so intense, yet I had nobody to share it with." He ended up confiding everything to Monsignor Ramon Agunday, dean of philosophy at Aquinas University, who, after their talk, asked him, "Why don't you become a priest?"

Entering the seminary

Fr. Jess did not give the suggestion a second thought. But one day, while walking near the Cathedral, he met the auxiliary bishop of Legaspi, Bishop Liloy Quiambao, who stopped him in his tracks with the query, "When are you entering the seminary?"

At first, Fr. Jess thought Msgr. Agunday must have told the bishop about their conversation. "But with so many people passing the Cathedral every day, how could Bishop Quiambao have singled me out when we didn't even know each other?" In any case, the Bishop asked Fr. Jess to see him, and succeeded in convincing the young man to enter the seminary by promising him that he could always leave if he changed his mind.

Entering the Holy Rosary Seminary in Naga was tough, and started with a three-day examination. A month after, a big envelope announcing that he had passed the exam arrived in their house. Fr. Jess gathered the whole family and told them about his decision to enter the seminary. His mother cried profusely, while his father thought he was crazy. "In my hometown, there is this superstition that one parent will die before the ordination of their child, and my father, having this in mind, objected to my entering the seminary. My mother, on the other hand, objected because she was depending on me to help support the family. She thought she was losing everything. Besides, studying in the seminary is expensive and we could not afford it, but I assured her, 'If the Lord wants me to enter the seminary, He will provide everything.'"

Not one centavo

And God did provide. From the time Fr. Jess entered the seminary, not one centavo was spent by his family for his schooling and upkeep. "The few times they visited me, they wanted to give me some money, but I told them to keep it instead and set it aside for my brothers and sisters." He also kept his expenses to a minimum. The news of his entering the seminary reached friends, classmates and teachers alike, and help came, in cash and in kind. Slowly but surely, the road to priesthood was being paved for Fr. Jess.

Barely a year after entering the seminary, he was sent to Rome by Msgr. Concordio Sarte to finish his studies. When he first broke the news of his departure to his parents, his mother cried and told him about a recent dream she had. She saw her son in a black cassock surrounded by many children. "The dream was almost prophetic, because when I arrived in Rome, along with the other seminarians, we were immediately given black cassocks to wear. I arrived in Rome for the first time on May 15, 1985, and for seven straight years while studying, I was cut off from my family except for a letter I wrote them every month. Each time, my mother would ask, 'When are you coming back?'"

Abandoned

He knew that his family was hurting and his parents could hardly cope with sending his brothers and sisters to school. One time, he even got an irate letter from his younger siblings, who told him, "*Iniwanan mo kami* (You abandoned us). You have a nice life there while we are suffering here."

Fr. Jess was himself in agony, however. "Many times, my tears and perspiration would mix. I was terribly homesick and I was working so hard, I would often prostrate myself in the chapel and pray to God: Do You really want me to stay here? Do You want me to become a priest? If You really want me to stay here, please help my parents, my brothers and sisters back home.'" Prayers gave him the strength he needed. In between his studies and work, he regularly sent money back home. For seven years, Fr. Jess did not buy anything for himself except a computer, which he needed for his work. All his savings were dutifully sent to his parents, who in turn used it to build a new house and send the rest of the children to school.

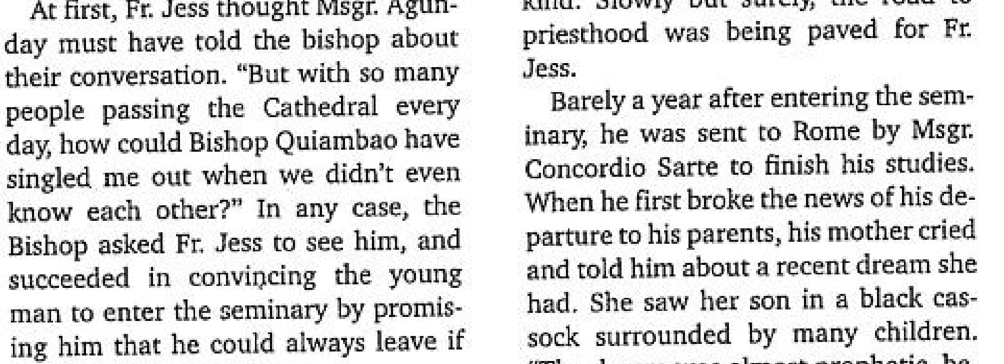
In 1992, he came back home, already a full-fledged priest. His father threw a big party with practically the whole town in attendance. After a month, he returned to Rome to begin his studies in canon law. While studying, he wrote the bishops of Rome and Legazpi, both telling them of his desire to serve in Legazpi, but before the bishop of Legazpi could answer, Fr. Jess was given his first assignment in Rome—as hospital chaplain of San Filippo Neri, which is close to his present parish of Nostra Signora di Fatima (Our Lady of Fatima).

The ABC's

Prior to his current post, he was assistant priest for 12 years in three different parishes in Rome. He has also served as a cruise chaplain, where he would often meet some *kababayan* working as crew members of the ship.

In 2000, while going through the papers of his late father, he learned that his father had been sending five poor children to school—an undertaking the family decided to continue. Thus, the ABC Scholarship Foundation, Inc. was born. "ABC stands for Alphabetization for Better Condition of Living, because education will no doubt improve the lives of these children," Fr. Jess explains. "After my father died, we decided not to divide his insurance among us, but instead use the money to start the foundation." Launched in 2001, the foundation currently serves 61 students.

"My mother had told me many times, 'These children must be the children I saw in my dream of you,'" Fr. Jess says. "To me, these are the very same children I asked God to give me." Q



Memorable: Fr. Jess took mom Edna to meet John Paul II in 2000

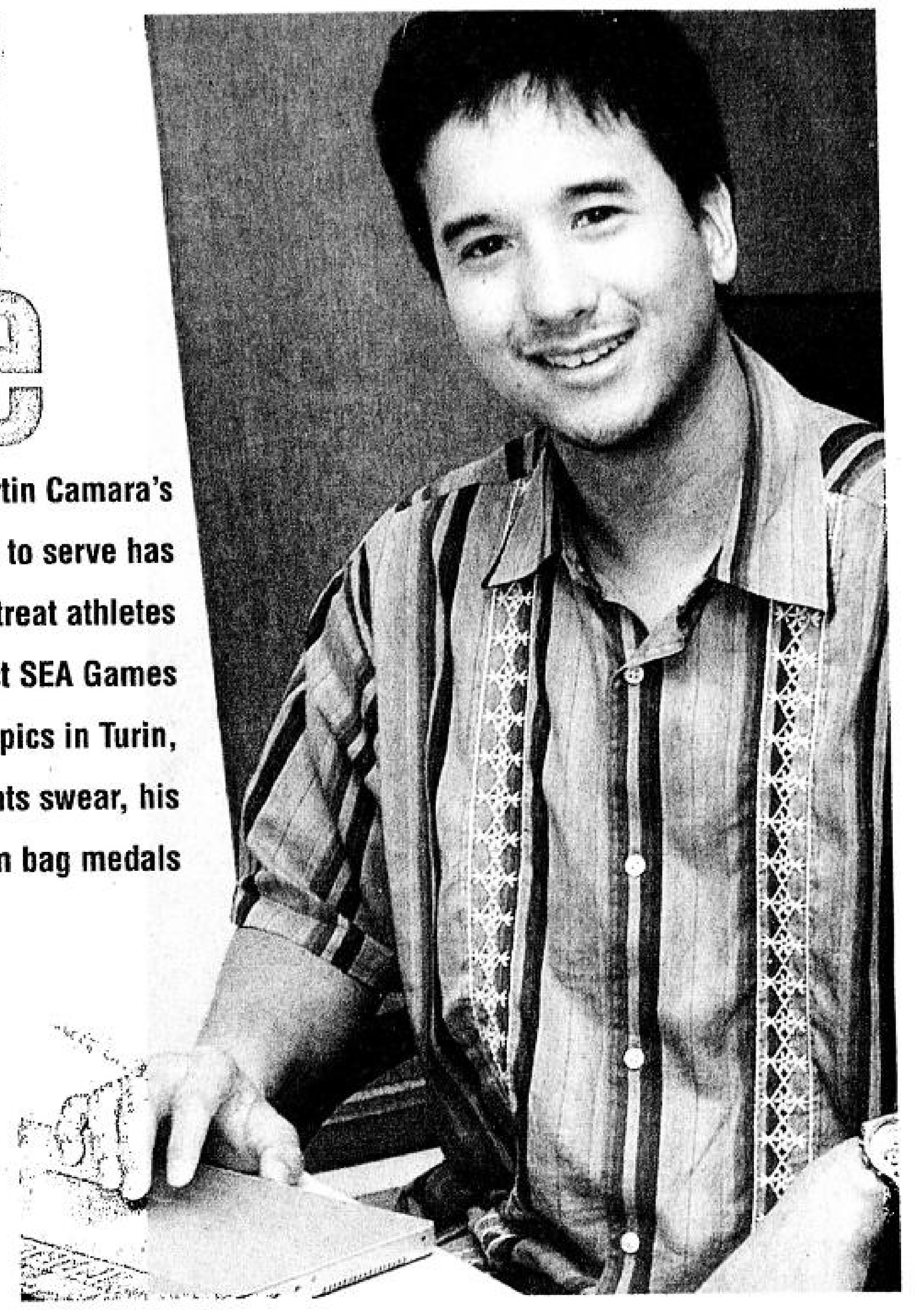
Donations are welcome to support the ABC Scholarship Foundation. Readers may contact any of the following: Bobby Maraño: Anislag, Daraga, Albay, (0918) 328-5795; Danny Maraño, Anislag, Daraga, Albay, (0918) 394-1193; Rev. Fr. Jess Maraño: Parish of Nostra Signora di Fatima, Via Fontanile Nuovo 88, Rome, Italy, +39 (06) 30810373

To Your Health

by Marge C. Enriquez

This compassionate chiropractor uses his hands to heal—and it's taking him places

Dr. Martin Camara's mission to serve has led him to treat athletes in the last SEA Games and the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy—and, his patients swear, his touch has helped them bag medals


AUGUST DELA CRUZ

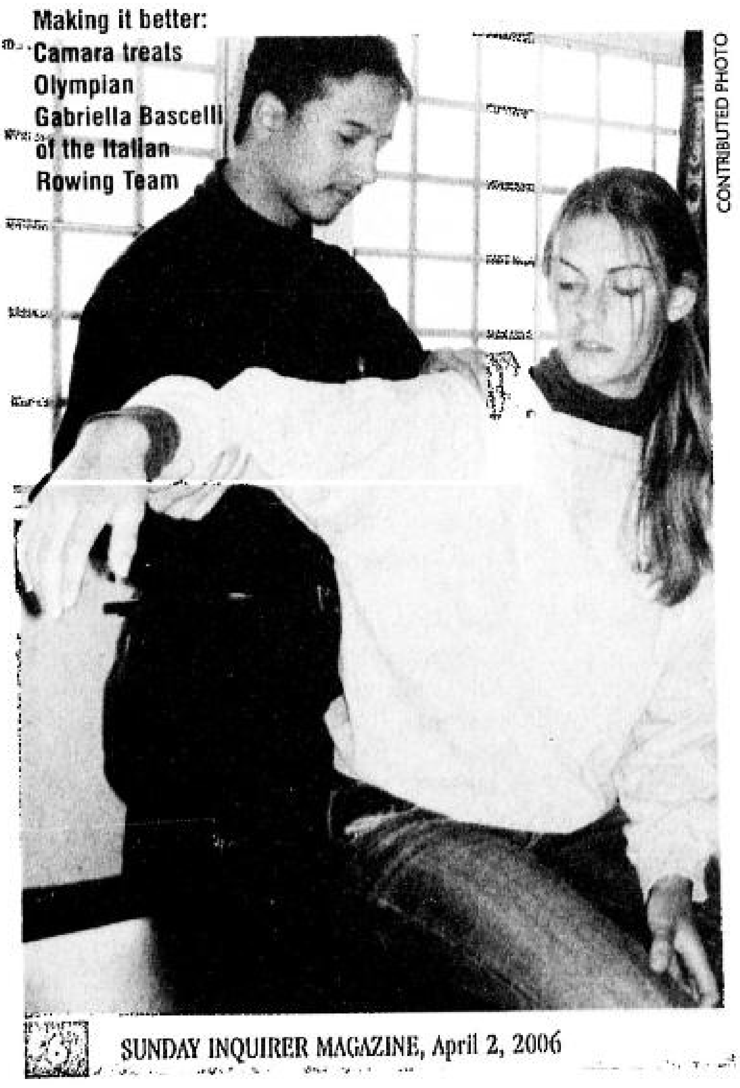
MARTIN Camara, doctor of chiropractic, has been known for fixing the backs and loosening the necks and shoulders of the country's most influential people. His good looks didn't hurt, either. Beyond the pedigree and the strong hands, the 38-year-old chiropractor has the drive and the inclination to get a move on projects outside the clinic, ranging from his involvement in government and social work to, most recently, sports medicine. Under Intercare Healthcare System, of which Camara is the CEO and director, the national aquatic team broke records in the recent Southeast Asian Games.

"Our gold medals would have just been silvers, were it not for Intercare," says Mark Joseph, president of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association. And, last February, Camara was the only Asian chiropractor to participate in the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy.

Still in its infancy in the Philippines, chiropractic is unknown to many. "Chiropractors are architects of the human body, where they can align the joints of the body and address functional muscular problems before they become symptomatic," Camara explains. "Low back pain, for example, is caused by a joint that is not aligned. This results in restrictions in the body's range of motion. A functional short leg will eventually lead to a slipped disc or possible scoliosis because of the imbalance caused by the dropping of the hips. By measuring, assessing and correcting these discrepancies early on, one is able to prevent serious back problems, and the athlete or patient can perform their activities or sport at an optimal level. Our job is make sure the body is properly aligned, the muscles are free of restrictions, scar tissues are repaired and the joints are moving through their full range of motion so people can enjoy their sport or activity."

More than a job

It's more than a job for Camara, however; it's a vocation he is most dedicated to. "Being able to heal with your hands, and not through medication, makes it even more exciting. I really am fortunate to have come across a profession which sits so well with my personality and philosophy in life."


Making it better: Camara treats Olympian Gabriella Bascelli of the Italian Rowing Team

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Camara's work has come a long way. When chiropractic was introduced in the Philippines in the '50s, doctors worked in small offices, adjusting misaligned joints. In 1994, Camara blazed the trail by establishing the Intercare Healthcare Systems, a clinic that imbibed the multidisciplinary and drugless approach to healing. Certain ailments could be treated using natural approaches instead of drugs or surgery.

From its early days, Intercare attracted upscale clients. It was even through one of Camara's patients that he met his future wife, Suzanne Faelnar, at a dinner. They hit it off instantly, as they shared a common experience of studying and living abroad. She had just finished her studies in international relations and diplomacy at London's Schiller International, and he had spent his youth in the States. They were married in 1995.

Beating the odds

Two years into their marriage, Camara began to feel a pain in his groin that was initially misdiagnosed. The couple would even have two sons, Rafael Luis Martin and Santiago Manuel. As the pain later worsened, Camara had a biopsy, and was diagnosed with seminoma or testicular cancer. For three months, he would work in the clinic, then go to Makati Medical Center for his treatment, which weakened him considerably.

When he was cured, Camara was determined never to become weak again. He was told that, with the treatments, chances were slim for having more children the natural way. The couple beat the odds when Emmanuelle was born in 2004.

Camara says the experience made him value his family even more. He now makes the effort to spend his free time with his children, whether it means taking them to school or traveling to their favorite scuba-diving spots in Batangas, Bohol, Mindoro or Palawan.

Camara's zeal for his work is motivated by the principles of Imua Shantung Kuntao, an Indonesian martial arts organization. He says his clinic is a practical example of the *kuntao*, which espouses service to humanity, respect, humility, compassion, strength of character and integrity. One precept is, "the right thing for the right reason in the right way." Camara explains, "We continuously ask ourselves, are we doing this because it is better or because it is easier? Often, we do all we can to make our patients well, not because it is easier, but because it is better."

Fascination with the body

Camara is the youngest of 12 children, six of them doctors like their cardiologist father Dr. Augusto Camara. Martin's fascination with the human body was born of his involvement in sports. He played baseball and softball from high school all the way to his doctorate in chiropractic at the Palmer College of Chiropractic West in San Jose, California. Camara is also the first chiropractor in the country to use the Graston technique, an instrument-assisted method to treat soft tissue injuries. He studied it in Florida under Thomas Hyde.

This knowledge and clinical experience enabled Camara and his staffers to help boost the performance of the Filipino athletes in the SEA Games. An Intercare clinic was set up at the Aquatic Center in Los Baños to assist the national swimming and diving teams.

Mark Joseph says they scored nine gold medals, compared with four in the previous SEA Games. Although they were better prepared because they were trained in China, mentored by a Japanese coach, and had competed in the World Swimming Championship in Canada, the athletes were unanimous in saying that Intercare's solicitous attention made an impact on them.

Between games, athletes received deep tissue massages, chiropractic adjustments, physical therapy, acupuncture and a lot of moral support. "The key to a high-level performance in swimming and diving is recovery," says Joseph. "Intercare took care of the athletes after every event. That played a big role in their winning." Other coaches and athletes from the foreign teams were impressed with how the Philippine team was pampered with Intercare's advanced methods.

Ambassadors of chiropractic

Now, Camara's work is taking him places. His mentor, Thomas Hyde, is president of the International Sports Chiropractic Commission, which has been providing chiropractors to the Olympic Games since 1996 in Atlanta. He invited Camara to the Turin Winter Olympics. The World Olympians Association (WOA), a subcommittee of the International Olympic committee. that looks after the needs of athletes, contracted a team of chiropractic specialists to service the Games. "We came as ambassadors of chiropractic," says Camara.

In the Winter Olympics, he observed that the big countries such as the United States and Canada brought their own chiropractors to service the national team. "Over 33 percent of elite athletes worldwide use chiropractic care. It is used for three things: to enhance performance, to speed up healing time when injured, and to prevent injury. However, only 10 percent of athletes have access to chiropractic care during the game itself," says Camara.

The clinic was set up at the Olympians' Reunion Center, outside the Olympic Village, which has a polyclinic that provides the medical care for all althletes. It served former Olympians, WOA delegates and dignitaries. Camara worked six hours a day, treating 30 patients. Most of them complained of back problems. He says 80 percent of the population complains of low back pain, athletes and non-athletes.

On the map

Off clinic hours, he watched the Games and witnessed how athletes would sacrifice themselves to exceed their limits. Some of his unforgettable moments were meeting the Olympic torch bearer before the event, and witnessing Chinese figure skater Zhang Hao injure her knee after a bad fall, then return to the rink to perform flawlessly.

The Winter Olympics opened opportunities for Camara to step up his involvement in sports medicine on the international level. He hooked up with doctors who invited him to the World Surfing Tour, and to the world track and field championships in Mauritius in 2007.

He adds that his participation in Turin put the Philippines on the map. "A lot of these people were unfamiliar with chiropractic and the Philippines. It's good to have a representative in one of the world's largest healthcare professions. After this engagement, international sports work is something we plan to do more often."

In the past two years, chiropractic has been gaining recognition in the medical profession and in the government. There is a growing acceptance of alternative medicine. He cites the Traditional and Alternative Medical Act, which advocates the development of complementary healthcare disciplines such as chiropractic. Camara is also involved with the National Institute of Health of the University of the Philippines, discussing guidelines for conducting research in Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and sits on the board of the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Healthcare.

Culture of excellence

Also at the core of Camara's work is developing his staffers' qualities, and offering patients the gift of their spirit. "Intercare—my life's work, basically—is a culture that strives towards excellence. We believe that the more people we serve, the better we are. We define success as the ability to affect people's lives in positive and creative ways, and that is definitely true with our patients, when we help them in their journey away from pain or towards optimum performance."

Before Camara left for Turin, he organized his staffers to help the victims of the "Wowowee" stampede. An outreach clinic offering free services was set up at ABS-CBN. The staffers treated over 150 people in two days. "In a simplistic way, some victims were even thankful for the stampede, because it gave them a chance to experience special treatment. Others went to ABS-CBN expecting to be given cash, but were satisfied instead with the nursing that they received from Intercare," says Camara.

Their form of giving is unconditional, and endears Camara and his team to their patients. To Camara, that's the way to live, according to the *kuntao* precept: "The thing which serves most is the best." Q

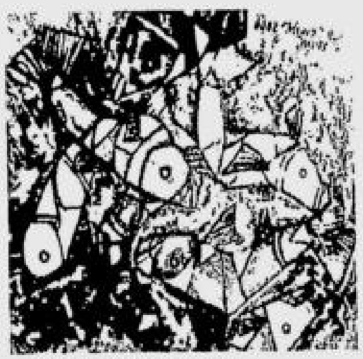
Intercare HealthCare Centers are located in Makati (tel. nos. 890-3378, 895-1297, 890-2547), Greenhills (tel. nos. 724-6631, 722-1846) and Alabang (tel. nos. 809-4163, 807-6863).

This Week

Art

Diboto, an exhibit of new works depicting Filipino piety by Mikel Parial, until April 7 at the Big & Small Art Co., Artwalk, SM Megamall. For details, call 687-7425.

Fish-ful of Prosperity, Julius Limpe's latest artworks of 20 pieces of fish paintings done in acrylic, April 4-16 at the Crucible Gallery, 4/L, Artwalk, SM Megamall.



Julius Limpe's recent works, on view at the Crucible Gallery

Onstage

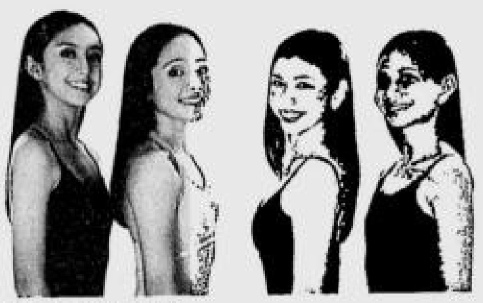
On April 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 7:30 p.m., Koine One Acts will restage Niel de Mesa's play ***Huling Ensayo Para Sa Iyo***, a tragic tale of a lover who prepared tediously for his beloved's birthday surprise only to be stumped by another birthday surprise. It will run in tandem with De Mesa's new surreal romantic comedy, **Somnambulism**, about a sleepwalker who wakes up in Paris. Call 410-4485 to reserve seats. Koine One Acts is located at 2/F, Forab Building, 121 Kamuning Road, QC.

Atbp

Ballet veteran Chelo B. Gemina, artistic director, launches **The Company of Acts**, a Christian ballet company on April 5 at the CCP Little Theater. Gemina formed "The Company of Acts" with a vision to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ through dance. The launch, which will be at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. will feature all schools under Gemina's directorship, namely International Christian Academy, STI Academy, talents InC., Victory Christian Fellowship Alabang, Shekinah Ballet School, and Statefield School.

Mandy Navasero Summer Photoworkshop offers the most fun to photo enthusiasts who are in pursuit of creativity and photographic adventures. Topics to be discussed are basic principleS of light, exposure, how to develop your eye, lenses and glossaries, photography as composition and tips for aspiring photographers. Lectures will be held every Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. starting April 8. Participants should have their own 35mm cameras with interchangeable lens or digital cameras with zoom lens. Separately, a Batanes Photo Safari is scheduled from April 12-15. Registration is ongoing at Rm. 227, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II Village, Makati City or call 899-1767 or 896-3208.

Get your kids moving and stretching this summer through the ancient discipline of yoga in **Iyengar Yoga for Kids**, starting April 4, Tuesday, 9-10 a.m. until May 30, at the Iyengar Yoga Center Manila, 21st Floor, 6801 Ayala Ave., Makati. Call or text Saree at (0917) 535-9711.



"The Company of Acts" goes onstage at the CCP Little Theater

Leaps and Bounds: A Youth Leadership Adventure Camp is on for the fourth straight year. Activities include Challenge Ropes Course, Arts & Crafts, Adventure Races, Night Treks, Nature Projects, Raft Building and others. Open to all youth ages 9-18 years; two camps to choose from: May 9-12 and May 16-19. Limited slots only. For package rates and details, contact 0918-9045581 or leapsandbounds@mgtstrat-asia.com.

X-manila

Yoga for Kids at the Iyengar Yoga Center Manila

Peque Gallaga's brainchild **Negros Summer Workshops** in Bacolod starts on April 24 with its new flagship course, Director's Apprenticeship under Direk Peque. Also offered are acting courses for children, teens and adults, and Film Production—a hands-on course on all aspects of film and video production from pre-production to shooting to editing and post production. Registration is ongoing until April 24 at the Office of the Artist-in-Residence, University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City (tel. 034-4345998). Assistance for housing arrangements for non-Bacolod workshoppers is available upon request.

For this

...from page 4

not for my ex, but for myself. If I stay angry, who will have a hard time? Who can't move on? *Sino ang talo* (Who loses)? *Eh di ako!*"

Today, Candy is looking forward to more work, including a US tour later this year with Eugene Domingo and other performer friends. She hopes to get another crack at drama after a memorable *"Maala-ala Mo Kaya"* episode that she enjoyed. "It felt good, but I guess people just weren't used to seeing me that way. You can be versatile, but the culture of producers here is to get whoever looks right for a role. As a matter of fact, yes, I'm ready to do drama, *huwag lang* bold, *nakakahiya!*"

Good friends: On a comedy tour in the US with Eugene Domingo, at left

Feeling blessed

Now a self-supporting single mom in the process of having her marriage annulled, Candy says she has no idea how she'll raise Quentin, but she knows she'll be there for him and not poison his mind against his dad. She relaxes by sleeping and reading a lot of inspirational stuff these days, including the Bible. "It's like I'm learning a lot only now, because it has suddenly became applicable to my life. But I do feel blessed."

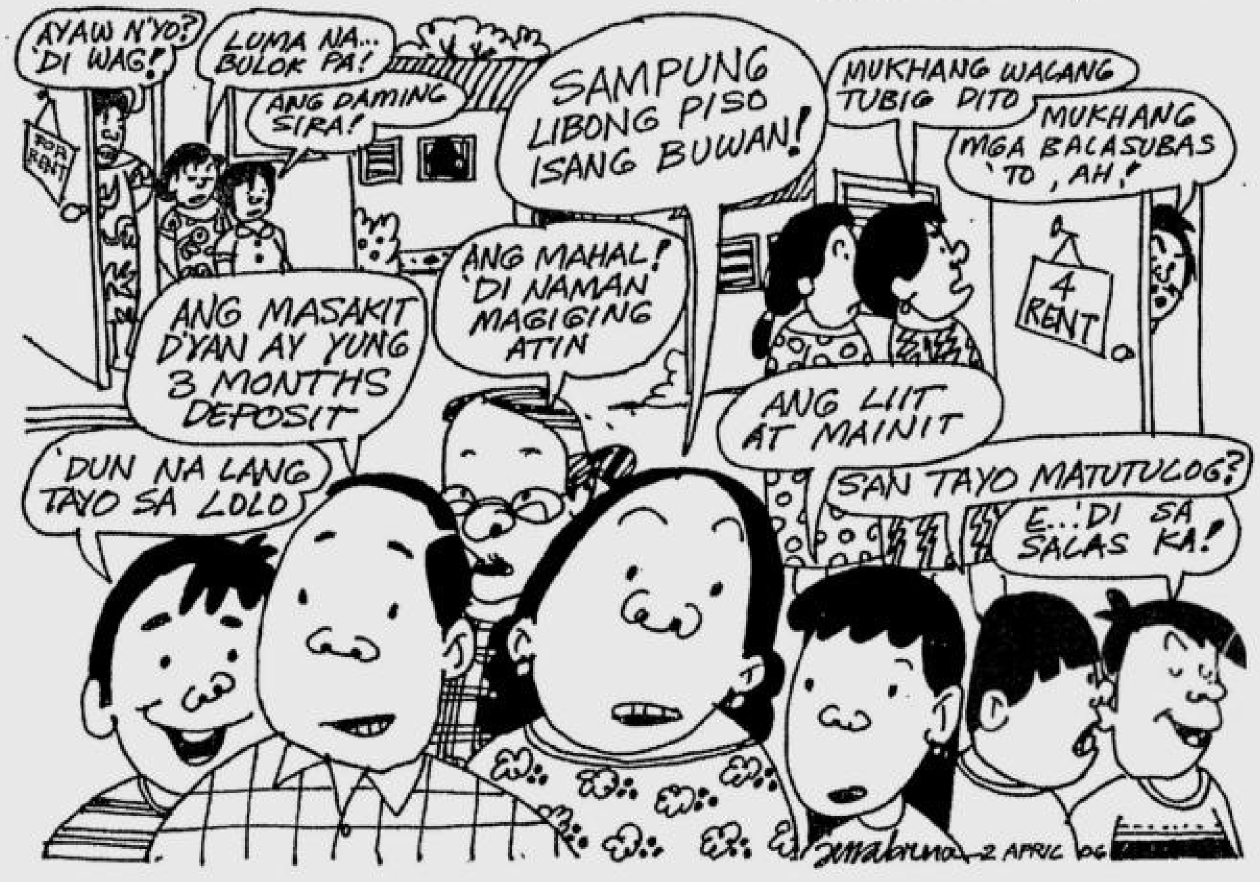
As for falling in love again, *"Oo naman!"* Candy retorts loudly. "I'm ready to start going out again, but I don't want to plan falling in love anymore. I always used to plan everything, and it's not that way *pala*. In the end, it's about loving yourself and keeping your dignity. I know I can fall in love again, but I also know my happiness will no longer depend on another person." Q

"Candy's be Love?" goes on stage at the Music Museum on Saturday, April 8, at 8 p.m., directed by Andrew de Real and sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.. For ticket inquiries, call Music Museum at tel. no. 721-6726, Ticketworld at tel. no. 891-9999, and Xzone Entertainment at tel. no. 914-1104.

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

Apartments for Rent



AYAW N'YO? 'DI WAG!
LUMA NA... BULOK PA!
ANG DAMING SIRA!
FOR RENT
SAMPUNG LIBONG PISO ISANG BUWAN!
MUKHANG WALANG TUBIG DITO
MUKHANG MGA BALASUBAS 'TO, AH!
4 RENT
ANG MAHAL! 'DI NAMAN MAGIGING ATIN
ANG MASAKIT D'YAN AY YUNG 3 MONTHS DEPOSIT
ANG LIIT AT MAINIT
'DUN NA LANG TAYO SA LOLO
SAN TAYO MATUTULOG?
E...'DI SA SALAS KA!
jmabrera 2 APRIL 06

The place

...from page 8

In this column we shall celebrate real stories about solid places. Not just the seeking and discovery, but also the struggles, the wrong turns and the joyous, poignant return, for these are necessary to our journey. Then we shall find our solid places where God heals us with prodigal love. Henri Nouwen reminds us to return to these solid places, especially when we are hurting: "You have to trust the place that is solid, the place where you can say yes to God's love even when you do not feel it."

Things slowly settled down, grew calmer and kinder, after Maggie gave her now-famous tour. Since there was no floor space anywhere inside for the dining table, the family spent its first few weeks eating al fresco, and the canopy of stars made the evening meals truly lovely and memorable.

It's been over a year now. The walls are still unpainted, but we have found the floor. The dogs have grown fat, the bird has regained its plumage (or is it a new one?), and the plants are abloom. The fish have not been replaced, but no one is complaining. It is now home.

Love is the most solid place of all. Q

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, April 2, 2006

Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC
Iba Tayo!

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:

1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA										Shall We Dance?		Dance Fever		Aawitan Kita	
ABS-CBN2	Your Song	SCQ Kids			The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		TV Patrol World	Sharon	Pinoy Big Brother	Sunday Family Cinema			
AXN														CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI NY (Season I)			
Cartoon Network	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	Megas XLR	Courage The Cowardly Dog		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Battle B-Daman	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Loonatics Unleashed	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021
Cinemax	Wild Things 2: The Glades			Precious Victims (4:10 PM)				Beethoven (5:50 PM)			The Adventures Of Brisco County Jr (7:25 PM)			S.W.A.T				Father's Day (10:55 PM)	
CNN	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	World News	Next@CNN	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Talk Asia	World News	World Business This Week	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveler	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart/ Global Office
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order: Criminal Content		I, Detective	Hollywood Justice	Law & Order		What Should You Do?		The Closer		Law & Order: Criminal Content		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Disney Channel	Lizzie Mcguire	Totally Spies! Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		X-Games Files '04	Table Tennis '05 [illegible]			Pro Billiards '05 Men's Trick Shot Magic		Pro Billiards '05 Men's Trick Shot Magic		Classic Boxing Great Fights of the Mid 60's		Classic Boxing Great Fights of the early 30's		Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Pool/ Snooker World Pool Masters '03 Holland		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2003	
ETC		Veronica Mars		American Dreams 2		Saturday Night Live		One Tree Hill 3		Rated Oh!	The Insider Weekend	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Project Runway		Nip Tuck (Back 2 Back Episodes)			
EWTN	Pilgrimages To The Shrines Of Eastern Europe	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Bookmark	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Mirror Of The Soul	Sunday Mass (SAP) Live			Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA7	Gigstars	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Jologs		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny	The Nanny	Fungus The Bogeyman			Fungus The Bogeyman				Doc Martin		Child Of Our Time		Sunday Premiere			Cactus Kids (10:35PM)		
HBO	The Stepford Wives (2:45 PM)				Moscow On The Hudson				Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!			Back To The Future Part II				Beyond Borders (9:50 PM)			
Hero TV	Babel II	Captain Kuppa	Dear Boys	GPX Cyber Formula	Baki The Grappler	Jester The Adventurer	Super Yoyo	Musumet	Ragnarok	Baron One	Babel II	Captain Kuppa	Hero TV Theatrix			Fruits Basket	Ragnarok	The Slayers	Musumet
IBC13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		Pinoy Action Hits				Iyo Ang Kaluwalhatian	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV	Everybody Hates Chris	Arrested Development	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Family Guy	Dr. Katz	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box				Trigger Happy TV	Dr Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Smart Solutions	Country Style	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special		Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Food Network Special		ET Entertainment Special							
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits		Laguna Beach	MTV Cribs	MTV Hits		Pimp My Ride	Get Hitched	MTV Screen	The 70's House	MTV Hits	True Life: I'm A College Baller		True Life: I'm A Muay Thai Fighter		MTV Hits		Essential VH1	
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents		MYX Hit Chart				MYX Backtrax	MYX LOG
National Geographic		Terrorism Week				Built For The Kill		When Natural Disasters Strike Back		Seismic Seconds	Rough Trades	Megastructures		Terrorism Week: Reign Of Terror: Al Qaeda Calling		Nat Geo Investigates/ Terrorism Week: Reign Of Terror: Hostage TV/No Borders		Terrorism Week: Reign Of Terror: Suicide Web	
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan ([illegible])						Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Congress in Action		GSIS Member's Hour (Replay)		The Sports List		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		The Working President	Special Events from Malacañang (Replay)
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob SquarePants	Trollz	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Magic Kingdom				Saan Darating Ang Umaga				Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon				Sharon: One Night Only				Boso
Qtv		Joan Of Arcadia		The Prince Of Tennis		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka...		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				Groupee TV	
RPN9		Golf Power	Fistorama		Global Window	WWE Smackdown		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN					The Working President
SBN21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherd's Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		[illegible]		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports										NBA Game Pacers vs Bucks					Sunday Slugfest: Barrera vs Peden		Solar Sports Desk		
Sports Plus			Golf Today	Bay Hill Invitational Highlights		FIFA Preview Series 7	Slipstream	Bay Bay Celebrity Poker Challenge				Tour of Qatar 05		Raceworld		The Players C'ship Highlights		BellSouth Classic Day 1	
Star Movies		When Harry Met Sally (3:15 PM)				Almost Famous				The Fan (7:05 PM)				Ladder 49				A Murder Of Crows (10:25 PM)	
Star World		Scrubs	8 Simple Rules	North Shore		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville		Malcolm In The Middle	The Simpsons	Oprah Winfrey Show		Koffee With Karan		Coupling (Series 2)		Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Winfrey Show
Studio23				PBL Game 2				E Club		Y Speak		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	F	Duel Tour (10:15 PM)	Badminton Extreme		Angel

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Solid Places

by Cecille Tuble, RC

The place where we are healed

We celebrate not just the seeking and discovery, but also the struggles, the wrong turns and the joyous, poignant return, for these are necessary to our journey

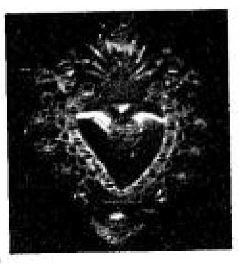
WISDOM, it is often said, means remembering what we have always known as children and have forgotten as adults. We forget, unfortunately, because the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" have made us acquire a crustiness about life which we mistake for "worldly wisdom." No wonder the Lord told us that we have to become like little children to enter the Kingdom. It is not permission to regress to immaturity, but a call to see the world anew. Like children, we must re-learn to go off on adventures to look for hidden treasures, the kind that takes us inwards into our hearts. Then we shall find—in the midst of all that is elusive and fleeting in this world—some real, solid places.

Of course, we need guides on the journey: a spiritual director, a trusted spouse or friend, a mentor, wise people who have taken the same path before us and can show us the way. Children, too, can teach us if we only know how to truly listen and observe. They show us, above all, that wisdom comes with vulnerability.

My niece Maggie taught us a valuable lesson during an especially bleak Christmas. Our family was about to move houses. Maggie, who was 6 at that time, told her mother what everyone else felt: "I'm sad, Mommy. I don't want to leave our house!" She had articulated the silent grief of the family, for the move was not a mark of upward mobility. Rather, it signified a radical, heartbreaking loss. And while the world gently glowed with a million lights of Christmas, my mother slowly turned off the lights in our childhood home, and closed the door for the last time. The new house, unfortunately, furthered this loss. In spite of my sister's near-obsessive efforts to make it beautiful, it was undeniably smaller. Worse, it was not yet finished by the time the family had to move in. The walls were unpainted, there were no window screens, and dirt was everywhere. The next days and weeks of unpacking and cleaning proved extremely stressful to all. Tempers were short and nerves frayed as people stumbled into boxes just looking for the "invisible" floor. Even our dogs lost weight, the bird lost its feathers, the plants wilted and the fish died.

Into such bleak landscape came God's little sunshine. In the midst of the frenetic moving, Maggie dragged her parents, her aunts, her *lola* and *lolo*, into the room she shared with her mother, father and baby sister, excitedly saying: "I want to show you my room!" Once inside, she made a grand, sweeping gesture around the room and happily demanded: "See? Isn't it great? I just don't like it, I LOVE it!" The adults were stunned into silence. We couldn't see beyond the mess of still-unsorted things and overflowing clutter, nor deeper than the loss of our former house. We couldn't see it, until Maggie, like a proud art collector showing off her priceless collection, pointed it out. Sure, she was sad to move. But she soon saw and understood—before all the grown-ups around her—that unpainted walls and smaller, dirtier houses do not really matter in the end. Here love, often flustered and tragically fallible, was nonetheless real. She was with family, and therefore she was Home. However it looked, it was a palace. She had found her solid place.

To page 7



FSM06
FRENCH SPRING IN MANILA
sama sama!

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE D'ACTION ARTISTIQUE, AND THE AYALA MUSEUM PRESENTS **FRENCH SPRING IN MANILA 2006** WITH

CHRISTIAN LACROIX dialogues!

AN EXHIBITION OF ART AND FASHION

The Alliance Française de Manille, in partnership with the French Embassy, the Association Française d'Action Artistique, and the Ayala Museum is delighted to announce that, for the first time, an art exhibit featuring Christian LACROIX Haute Couture will be presented in the Philippines at the Ayala Museum. The event, which will take place from the 1st April until the 4th May, 2006, will open the new **French Spring in Manila 2006.**

The exhibit, whose curator is Yves Sabourin, went first on display at the Fine Art and Lace Museum of the city of Alençon in France. It was followed by a world tour, which included China, Thailand and the Philippines, before a final trip to Israel.

As a designer, Lacroix has always been interested in every aspect of art. Moreover, his haute couture creations are real pieces of art. In this exhibit, which focuses on 17 years of work by one of France's most outstanding fashion designer, 63 of his unique dresses and accessories will be presented. It intends to create a dialogue between different aspects of Christian Lacroix's work and embodies, beyond fashion and garment.

As Christian Lacroix says, "this event is much more than a fashion exhibit. I want to present inspirations and a universe in harmony with space."

The display intends to communicate to the viewer the inspiration that stimulates Lacroix to continuously rejuvenate and reinvent himself as a designer. The message is that artists, including fashion designers, absorb influences from their environment to react to their surroundings in creating their art. In turn, the viewer of these artistic forms is stimulated and encouraged to view his or her surroundings in a new way.

"This is a display where everything is mixed together, where inspiration and influences are released, where distance allows understanding the creation process," says Mr. Yves Sabourin.

The result is Dialogues!, a conversation between designer, artist and viewer. The sensibilities and perception of each dialogue partner are expanded through this process and the works produced and perceived take on new meanings.

A series of lectures and discussions related to fashion and the influence of French fashion designers will be held at the Ayala Museum during the month of April.

CHRISTIAN LACROIX dialogues!
AYALA MUSEUM **April 1- May 4**

NEMANJA RADULOVIC
classical violin with
Dominique Plancade piano
PHILAMLIFE **May 25-27**

COMPAGNIE LA BARAKA
Allegoria Stanza
contemporary dance
CCP MAIN THEATER **June 2-3**

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
screenings and workshops
SHANGRI-LA MALL **June 8-18**

MANILA JAZZ FESTIVAL
with Manila's top jazz artists
EXPO EXCHANGE **June 16**

WAITING FOR GODOT
Play by Sammuel Beckett
directed by **Alain Timar**
CCP MAIN THEATER **June 23, 24, 25**

ETCHINGS 10 french artists
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE
April 10-May 6

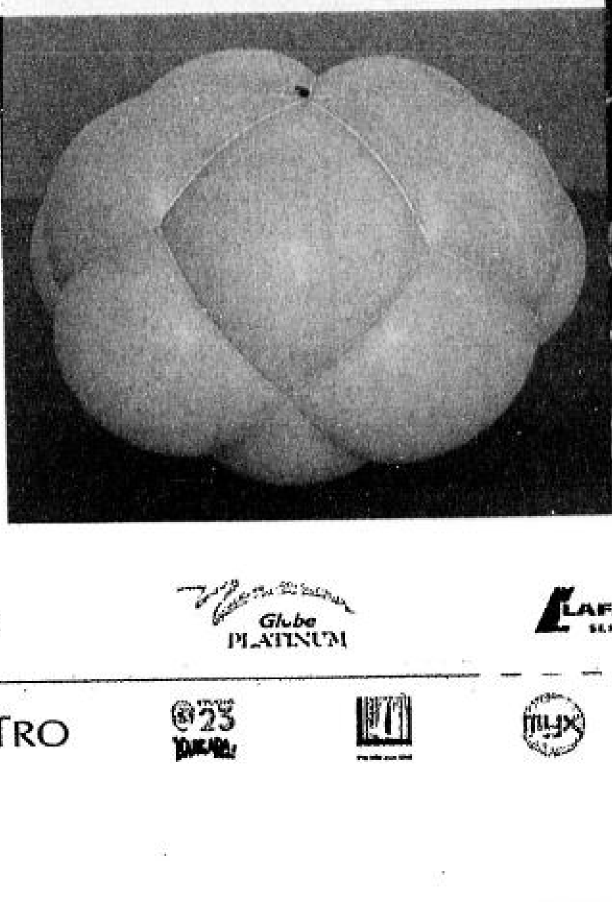
REGARDS CROISES
photos of Parisian daily life by
Juan Caguicla
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE
May 8-26

CLOWNS WITHOUT BORDERS
Photos of French clowns' travel in the Philippines **June**

FRENCH CUISINE WEEK
with French chefs
MADARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL and
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE
June 1-11

SOMMELIER FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL
10 RESTAURANTS IN METRO MANILA
June

ZANZIBAR contemporary circus
interaction with abused children in
Iloilo
CHAMELEON **June 25-July 11**



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